



# THE NATIONAL CERTIFIED COUNSELOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFIED COUNSELORS

## NBCC Educational Requirements to Change in 2022

NBCC recently made a significant decision to revise its educational standards. Beginning January 1, 2022, NBCC will require a master’s degree or higher from a CACREP-accredited program for initial national certification. This decision will not affect current NCCs; you will be able to hold the certification as long as you continue to adhere to NBCC policies and procedures.

The NBCC Board deliberations and decisions over the past few years involved listening to, researching and discussing a variety of issues in counseling. The development of counseling as a profession is similar to other professions. It is common for early professionals to complete training in related fields, and it is the work of these pioneers to create a path that promotes further growth.

“I strongly believe that the counseling profession exists because of the many contributions of previous and current experienced professionals,” says Thomas W. Clawson, NBCC’s president and CEO. “It is because of these contributions that counseling is now recognized by licensure laws in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.”

NBCC listened to the many counselors who have described difficulty relocating to other states and demonstrating eligibility for positions in federal programs. NBCC has lobbied for many years for improvements in both of these areas and continues to do so. Policymakers have clearly communicated that inconsistent educational standards represent an impediment to inclusion in federal programs as well as state recognition of counselors. They have further indicated that state licensure in its wide variety of forms does not address the need for a uniform method of recognizing professionals. Counselor education programs work hard to prepare their graduates; however, legislators, regulators and policymakers see the failure to universally adopt specialized accreditation as problematic because of inconsistent standards and a lack of accountability.

NBCC recognizes that any successful professionalization effort requires effective communication. Legislative leaders listen, but they are also charged with sharing the questions and concerns raised by others outside of the counseling profession. To be successful, NBCC must address all concerns with accurate information and help resolve areas of

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# NBCC Educational Requirements to Change in 2022

difficulty and move toward required uniformity. Other professions require specialized accreditation to ensure consistent quality of education and training. NBCC's new application standards will address these issues in a manner that promotes continued growth and recognition of the counseling profession.

"We believe that embracing one accreditation will help resolve these issues," says Dr. Clawson. "We also owe it to future counseling students to create a clear, consistent professional identity."

This must begin with a specialized accreditation process that ensures a more uniform system for educating future counselors. Counseling has a specialized accreditation organization in CACREP. For over 30 years, CACREP has provided national educational standards that are developed from contributions from the entire profession, and these are regularly reviewed to enhance the continued development of the profession. Currently, CACREP accredits more than 700 programs (e.g., school, clinical mental health, addictions) in approximately 300 colleges and universities.

"NBCC will always recognize current NCCs, and we urge state licensure boards to do the same," says Dr. Clawson. "We want [current NCCs] and those who become NCCs before 2022 to continue to identify as counselors with national certification. I graduated with my counseling degrees before CACREP and continue to hold licensure and the NCC."

NBCC was established to help propel the counseling profession. Its recent decision offers a significant opportunity for experienced counselors to demonstrate their professional identity and commitment while simultaneously planning a more uniform system for educating future counseling professionals.

"We hope that all counselors will take the time to consider the issues the profession is currently facing and recognize that this historic change represents future opportunity and clarity, says Dr. Clawson.

## CCE UPDATE

### New Training Providers for the DCC Credential

The Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) has partnered with Renewed Vision Counseling Services; Telehealth Certification Institute, LLC; and the TeleMental Health Institute, Inc. to provide the training required for the Distance Credentialed Counselor (DCC) credential.



The DCC identifies professionals who are trained in best practices for delivering traditional counseling using technological means. Counselors who earn the credential are required to adhere to the National Board

for Certified Counselors (NBCC) *Code of Ethics* and the NBCC *Policy Regarding the Provision of Distance Professional Services*.

"As the need for counselors skilled in delivering services using technological means grows, counselors are seeking educational opportunities for learning safe and effective practices in distance counseling," says Patricia Cates, vice president of CCE.

To learn more about the DCC credential, visit [www.cce-global.org/dcc](http://www.cce-global.org/dcc).

*The Professional Counselor (TPC)* is the peer-reviewed academic journal of NBCC. *TPC* publishes articles on various topics for counseling professionals in diverse settings. At <http://TPCjournal.nbcc.org>, readers can access journal articles, digests, and reviews of counseling books and videos.

## LATEST ARTICLES

### Volume 4, Issue 4

- “Opportunities for Action: Traditionally Marginalized Populations and the Economic Crisis”  
Kevin A. Tate, Kathleen M. Fallon, Elaine J. Casquarelli, Laura Reid Marks
- “Animating Research With Counseling Values: A Training Model to Address the Research-to-Practice Gap”  
Kristi A. Lee, John A. Dewell, Courtney M. Holmes
- “Counseling People Displaced by War: Experiences of Refugees From the Former Yugoslavia”  
Branis Knezevic, Seth Olson
- “Career Development of Women in Academia: Traversing the Leaky Pipeline”  
Courtney E. Gasser, Katharine S. Shaffer
- “Global Links and Gaps in Counselor Education Programs: Establishing a Baseline”  
Laura Shannonhouse, Jane E. Myers
- “Smiles From the Heart: Humanistic Counseling Considerations for Fathers of Sons With Asperger’s Disorder”  
Michael D. Hannon
- “Profiling the Personality Traits of University Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students at a Research University in Malaysia”  
See Ching Mey, Melissa Ng Lee Yen Abdullah, Chuah Joe Yin
- “The Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Counseling Outcomes”  
Lisa D. Hawley, Todd W. Leibert, Joel A. Lane
- “Small but Mighty: Perspectives of Rural Mental Health Counselors”  
Anastasia Imig

## COMING SOON

### Fall 2014

#### Book Reviews:

- *Multiculturalism and Diversity in Clinical Supervision: A Competency-Based Approach*
- *The Big Book of ACT Metaphors: A Practitioner’s Guide to Experiential Exercises and Metaphors in Acceptance & Commitment Therapy*
- *Essential Interviewing and Counseling Skills: An Integrated Approach to Practice*
- *Spiritual Competency in Psychotherapy*
- *Loving Someone With Anxiety: Understanding and Helping Your Partner*
- *Advanced Acceptance and Commitment Therapy: The Experienced Practitioner’s Guide to Optimizing Delivery*

#### Video Reviews:

- *Empowering Adults With Developmental Disabilities: A Creative Arts Therapies Approach*
- *Multicultural Competence in Counseling and Psychotherapy*
- *Anger Management in Counseling and Psychotherapy*

### November 2014

Volume 4, Issue 5: Special Issue — School Counseling

### Winter 2015

Volume 5, Issue 1

### Spring 2015

Volume 5, Issue 2: Special Issue — Counseling Children With Special Needs

# APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE



## Newly Approved Continuing Education Providers

**ACE-Classes.com**; #6663; Fort Lauderdale, FL;  
[www.ace-classes.com](http://www.ace-classes.com)

**Advanced Clinical Trainers**; #6664; Arlington Heights, IL;  
[www.advancedclinicaltrainers.com](http://www.advancedclinicaltrainers.com)

**AEP Connections, LLC**; #6680; Appleton, WI;  
[www.aepconnections.com](http://www.aepconnections.com)

**Argosy University-Denver**; #4596; Denver, CO;  
[www.argosy.edu](http://www.argosy.edu)

**Arizona Trauma Institute**; #6677; Mesa, AZ;  
[www.aztrauma.org](http://www.aztrauma.org)

**Caldwell University Graduate Programs in Counseling**;  
#4598; Caldwell, NJ; [www.caldwell.edu](http://www.caldwell.edu)

**Cenpatico**; #6673; Lexington, KY;  
[www.cenpatico.com](http://www.cenpatico.com)

**CEUTV (Schemata, LLC)**; #6683; Gahanna, OH;  
[www.ceutv.net](http://www.ceutv.net)

**Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute, Inc. (CTRI)**;  
#6668; Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; [ctrinstitute.com](http://ctrinstitute.com)

**Department of Social Services of Mecklenburg County**;  
#6678; Charlotte, NC; <http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/dss/Pages/Default.aspx>

**Florida Mental Health Counselors Association (FMHCA)**;  
#2058; Tampa, FL; [www.FLMHCA.org](http://www.FLMHCA.org)

**International Association of Trauma Professionals (IATP)**;  
#6674; Sarasota, FL; [www.traumapro.net](http://www.traumapro.net)

**International Hypnosis Research Institute, LLC (IHRI)**;  
#6670; Anniston, AL; [www.hypnosisresearchinstitute.org](http://www.hypnosisresearchinstitute.org)

**Leslie Phillips Seminars**; #6667; Lacey's Spring, AL;  
[www.daretodreamlife.com/leslie-phillips-seminars.html](http://www.daretodreamlife.com/leslie-phillips-seminars.html)

**McCallum Place Eating Disorder Centers**; #6675; Saint Louis, MO; [mccallumplace.com](http://mccallumplace.com)

**Mercer Trainings**; #6676; Seattle, WA;  
[www.mercertrainings.com](http://www.mercertrainings.com)

**Missouri Mental Health Counselors Association**; #2059;  
Bourbon, MO; [www.mmhca.com](http://www.mmhca.com)

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**; #4599;  
New Orleans, LA; [www.nobts.edu/counseling](http://www.nobts.edu/counseling)

**North Atlantic Region Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (NARACES)**; #1103;  
Brooklyn, NY; [www.naraces.org](http://www.naraces.org)

**Northeast Delta Human Services Authority**; #6662;  
Monroe, LA; [www.northeastdeltahumanservicesauthority.org](http://www.northeastdeltahumanservicesauthority.org)

**Pathways Professional Counseling/Alabama Baptist Children's Homes**; #6679; Birmingham, AL;  
[www.pathwaysprofessional.org](http://www.pathwaysprofessional.org)

**Perspectives Behavioral Health Management**; #6660;  
Barling, AR; [www.pbhm.com](http://www.pbhm.com)

**Philadelphia Association of Jungian Analysts (PAJA)**;  
#6671; Philadelphia, PA; [cgjungphiladelphia.org](http://cgjungphiladelphia.org)

**Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) Mississippi State University**; #6661; Mississippi State, MS;  
[www.rcu.msstate.edu](http://www.rcu.msstate.edu)

**Serene Center, Inc.**; #6682; Long Beach, CA;  
[theevolutionofaddictiontreatment.com](http://theevolutionofaddictiontreatment.com)

**Social Thinking, Inc.**; #6685; San Jose, CA;  
[www.socialthinking.com](http://www.socialthinking.com)

**Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center**; #6656;  
Lubbock, TX; [www.ttuhs.edu/health.edu](http://www.ttuhs.edu/health.edu)

**The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care**;  
#6684; Cary, NC; [www.cchospice.org](http://www.cchospice.org)

**University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire Continuing Education**; #6669; Eau Claire, WI; [www.uwec.edu/ce](http://www.uwec.edu/ce)

**Western Maryland Health System**; #6681; Cumberland, MD; [www.wmhs.com](http://www.wmhs.com)

**Wheaton College**; #4597; Wheaton, IL;  
<http://wheaton.edu/academics/departments/psychology/graduate-programs/programs>

## Voluntary Audits

The following NCCs have completed and documented a minimum of 130 hours of continuing education activities in the five-year certification cycle. By doing so, they have demonstrated a dedication to excellence and professionalism.

NBCC congratulates these outstanding NCCs.

**Whitney Triplett—Huntersville, NC**

**Jon A. Bolaski—Shelburne Falls, MA**

# Choosing Distance Counseling Technology

Choosing technology for distance counseling can feel overwhelming. In this article, we'll look at the issues to note when looking for HIPAA-HITECH-compliant technology and some other practical questions and suggestions to help guide your search.

Begin with the setting in mind. What service do you want to provide and in what setting do you want to provide it? Are you looking to provide video counseling in a private practice or an agency? Will your service be in the client's home or at another agency or primary care medical office? These questions relate to the type of equipment and service you might need. When you are communicating from one clinic or medical setting to another, you can have a system that does not protect the IP address of the users. However, when treating a client in the client's home, you have to have a technology that conceals the client's IP address and login information in order to ethically protect the client's confidentiality.

Identify the minimum your technology needs to do for you. It's easy to get swept away by the promises of an all-in-one tool, only to find that you have sacrificed the quality of the important service to accommodate other features you don't actually need. It's not that extra features are bad, I just know how many apps I have on my phone that I never use. Make sure you stay focused on your main objective and let the other features be a bonus.

Features like online scheduling or insurance billing are appealing, but should only be considered benefits if the technology fulfills your primary requirement. For instance, if you want to do video counseling, make

sure the video works consistently and is easy to use. There is no perfect option, but some video technology is clearly better than others. Do a trial of several and see which one will work best for you and your clients.

## Choose by Criteria

One way to bypass the initial marketing hype is to choose from a criteria list at [www.telementalhealthcomparisons.com](http://www.telementalhealthcomparisons.com). Start with your top three or four criteria to narrow the options. If necessary, you can then go back and refine your search. There may be some very good options to consider that lack just one ancillary preference.

Once you have narrowed your search to two or three vendors, make sure you ask them a lot of questions, especially with regard to HIPAA compliance.

## HIPAA Compliance

This is recommended even if you're not a covered entity under HIPAA. Even if you don't file health insurance, the HIPAA policies protect you and your client, reducing your liability. Also, if you expect to get referrals from the growing number of medical systems providing telemedicine, you'll need to have a HIPAA-compliant plan to even be considered a credible option.

When it comes to HIPAA, it can be hazardous to take the vendor's word for it. Many vendors claim HIPAA compliance in marketing when they are really only referring to one small portion of HIPAA: data encryption in transit for a portion of the data journey. It's like carrying your kids in an armored car but dropping them off downtown alone. The journey was secure, but the destination is not.

Ask the vendor what steps they take to protect all 18 personal health information (PHI) items. If their only answer is encryption, keep looking. For more information, see NBCC's previous article on HIPAA-HITECH compliance at [www.nbcc.org/assets/HIPAA\\_Compliance.pdf](http://www.nbcc.org/assets/HIPAA_Compliance.pdf).

## Evaluation

Set aside time and energy to do a fair evaluation so as not to disrupt your current business. It is likely that you have some systems in place that you may not be ready to change.

If you are considering using a new technology for a service like insurance billing, secure e-mail or online scheduling, consider doing a pilot with a pool of 10 of your tech-savvy clients on just that feature. If they don't like it or it doesn't work for your practice, then discount the value of that feature in your evaluation against other technologies.

## The Cost of Change

For those just starting out in distance counseling, it is important to spend more time on the practice of video counseling rather than on the ancillary technical features. For some, these features can be a distraction from actually providing the online counseling service. You also want to avoid getting bogged down in technical and operational complexities that are unnecessary for beginners.

Consider evaluating and adopting one feature at a time. Most video conferencing systems work in very similar ways, so the switch to a

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## NBCC-I Attends VI AMOPP International Counseling Encounter

On October 2–4, NBCC International staff attended the VI International Encounter organized by the Asociación Mexicana de Orientación Psicológica y Psicoterapia (AMOPP: Mexican Association for Counseling and Psychotherapy). NBCC-I was a sponsor of this year’s conference, titled “Counseling and Psychotherapy: Challenges of Ageing,” held at Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla, in Puebla, Mexico.

Approximately 100 counselors, professors and students attended this conference in order to strengthen their skills and knowledge to address strengths and challenges related to aging. A wide variety of speakers, panelists and workshops addressed the issue from diverse perspectives during this two-and-a-half-day event. NBCC-I is honored to continue to be a part of these conferences and to count AMOPP as one of its earliest program partners.

## Mental Health Facilitator Program Update

NBCC International (NBCC-I) is pleased to announce the release of two new curricula for the Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program, the MHF-*ASAP!* and the MHF-Educator’s Edition (MHF-EE).

The MHF-EE is designed to train teachers, administrators and school support staff members of K–12 schools in basic mental health knowledge and skills. The curriculum includes communication, helping and referral skills specific to students and schools. Prior to its release, the MHF-EE was piloted in school districts in the United States.

The MHF-*ASAP!* provides participants with core competencies from the original MHF curriculum in a condensed eight-hour training period. Ideal for people interested in basic community mental health education, the MHF-*ASAP!* was piloted in the United States and is available to interested organizations both domestically and abroad.

Participants in the MHF-EE and MHF-*ASAP!* trainings join a voluntary registry with other MHFs and become a valuable part of the MHF program’s mission to reduce the care-need gap in mental health worldwide.

## Choosing Distance Counseling Technology

different vendor will not be overly difficult. With this in mind, you may want to choose a vendor with fewer features and ask for a trial or a month-to-month contract as you get used to providing distance services. Once you have proven the use case and are regularly seeing clients, then look for the added benefits from more complex systems. Otherwise, you may spend a lot of time on unnecessary features that distract from the main purpose of the technology.

The search process doesn’t have to be daunting. Explore the options with an eye on the potential you’ll create with this new line of service. Armed with some good questions and a checklist, you’ll quickly narrow your search to a few options to evaluate. There are no perfect technologies, but some do a decent job at providing the primary services. Each one will improve as new versions become available, so check in from time to time to see if there are improvements in the marketplace.

*Jay Ostrowski is a National Certified Counselor and the director of product and business development for the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).*

### REMEMBER!

Anytime your contact information changes, be sure to update it through ProCounselor (<https://procounselor.nbcc.org>), NBCC’s new online application and certification services platform. If it is your first time logging in, click “request a password.”





## NBCC Government Relations

# Your Voice on Capitol Hill

**The 2014 midterm elections** turned out to be a rout by the Republican party. In addition to gaining control of the U.S. Senate, Republicans increased their majorities in the House, governorships, and state legislatures.

On election night, Republicans gained eight seats to take a 53 to 44 majority in the Senate, with two independents caucusing with the Democrats. On December 6, there was a runoff election in Louisiana where Republican Representative Bill Cassidy ousted Democratic incumbent Mary Landrieu, bringing the Republican majority to 54.

In the House of Representatives, Republicans gained a net of 12 seats, with seven seats undecided. Republicans now control 244 seats to the Democrats' 184, and when the remaining offices are decided, will likely have their largest majority since World War II.

The Republican gains also extended to the state level. The GOP added three governorships, totaling 31, with 17 Democrats and two undecided, leaning Democrat and Independent. In state legislative races, Republicans added more than 250 seats across 99 legislative chambers. The GOP took the majority in nine chambers and is set to control at least 64 chambers.

The election will have a mixed effect on the counseling profession. No congressional champions of key legislation lost their election, but some proponents lost their leadership positions. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), the sponsor of our Medicare legislation, will become the ranking member on the Senate Finance Committee rather than the chair. This position still provides him an influential role, but not the control he would have possessed. Additionally, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), chair of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and sponsor of our veterans legislation, will become the ranking member on

that committee. He, too, can continue to be an effective advocate, but with slightly less authority. However, Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS), a strong supporter of our VA issues, will move into the majority with the increased influence that affords. Reps. Chris Gibson (R-NY) and Mike Thompson (D-CA), our House Medicare sponsors, easily won reelection and will continue to be strong voices for this legislation.

With the election in the rearview mirror, attention now turns to governing. Congress convened a lame duck session on November 12, which ran about two weeks with a break for Thanksgiving. The primary agenda item was a spending bill to keep the government running past December 11.

### TRICARE

On July 17, the Department of Defense released the final rule establishing standards for counselor participation in the TRICARE program. The final rule replaces the previous interim final rule (IFR), which was released in December 2011 and created the initial criteria for counselor independent practice under TRICARE. The final rule modifies the IFR in response to comments and concerns expressed by the public and incorporates many improvements suggested by NBCC. The entirety of the rule can be read in the News and Events section of NBCC's Web site ([www.nbcc.org](http://www.nbcc.org)). The highlights of the changes include:

**Extension of the transition period to 2017**—Previously, the IFR transition period was scheduled to end December 31, 2014, but the final rule extends it for two years, until January 1, 2017. Additionally, TRICARE clarified that any counselor meeting the transition criteria before January

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# NBCC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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1, 2017, could apply at any time under those standards (including after the transition period closes). The transition period educational and test requirements include:

- Possession of a master's degree or higher from a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs and passage of the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE); or
- Possession of a master's degree or higher in counseling from a regionally accredited institution and passage of the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE).

**Indefinite continuation of the supervised counselor status**—The IFR allowed counselors to continue to practice under physician supervision as supervised mental health counselors (SMHCs) until January 1, 2015. After that date, the SMHC status would no longer be reimbursed. The final rule removes the expiration date and extends the SMHC status indefinitely. Consequently, counselors currently practicing under supervision may continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

**Supervision by any mental health professional permitted**—The IFR required supervision by a counselor.

**Terminology changed to TRICARE certified mental health counselor (TCMHC)**—The IFR created the CMHC status, which was too easily confused with NBCC's Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) certification.

The final rule became effective on August 18, 2014.

## Veterans

On July 24, NBCC and our coalition partners met with senior Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) leaders from the offices of mental health services, mental health operations and academic affairs. The meeting provided a platform to have a thorough discussion on the slow pace of hiring and the policy impediments to counselor integration. The meeting covered a range of important topics, with significant concern expressed about the intransigence of the VA to provide paid internships to counselors through the Health Professionals Trainee Program.

In follow-up to the meeting, NBCC was notified by the

Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) that the VA had approved offering three paid internships for licensed professional mental health counselors (LPMHCs). While the concession was modest, it was a positive movement on an issue deemed a priority by the coalition. NBCC is urging the VA to expand the number of paid internships and to accelerate the implementation process.

In August, NBCC submitted a letter to the VA with detailed recommendations for improving the LPMHC qualification standards. Many of the criteria in the standards inhibit counselors' ability to obtain and compete for positions within the VA. The VA has indicated that it is considering revisions to the standards, which we hope will facilitate hiring of the profession.

NBCC continues to work with Sen. Jerry Moran's (R-KS) staff to obtain information from the VA about LPMHC hiring and policies. At our urging, Sen. Moran submitted questions for the record in 2013 and received a response in July 2014. The reply offered little substantive information except that 97 LPMHCs were currently employed by the VA. Consequently, NBCC helped prepare a list of detailed questions that Sen. Moran's office submitted in September. We are awaiting a response.

## OPM Occupational Series

In May, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) indefinitely postponed the creation of an occupational series for professional counselors. NBCC reached out to Congress to pursue legislative remedies to restart the initiative.

In response, the Senate Financial Services and General Government appropriations subcommittee (FSGG) incorporated language in its July report urging OPM to create an occupational series for counselors. The language states:

*Professional Counseling, and Marriage and Family Therapy.—The Committee directs OPM to explore the creation of an occupational series for the professions of professional counseling, and marriage and family therapy. These professions represent more than 220,000 licensed mental health professionals and 40 percent of the behavioral health workforce. The delay in the creation of these two series limits access to mental healthcare across the Federal*

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# NBCC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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*Government and can be particularly burdensome on service members and veterans. The Committee believes that this effort should be a priority and directs OPM to report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees no later than 90 days after enactment on progress and planned steps, including the timeframe for completion, in order to establish these series.*

In addition, NBCC submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to OPM for all documentation relating to the creation of an occupational series for professional counselors. OPM responded in October with the requested material, providing helpful documentation that NBCC can use to promote the issue.

## Medicare

The House TriCaucus—representing the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus—introduced its annual health disparities bill, the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014. H.R. 5294 is an omnibus bill with many health care provisions, including one providing Medicare recognition of professional counselors. The Health Equity and Accountability Act is the fifth bill to provide counselor Medicare recognition introduced in the 113th Congress. Prospects for a Medicare vehicle in the lame duck session appear limited, but NBCC and our coalition partners continue to meet with key legislative offices in preparation for any potential activity.

## Minority Fellowship Program

NBCC was awarded all three Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) grants for the counseling profession. At NBCC's urging, Congress doubled MFP funding in Fiscal Year 2014, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) expanded the program to provide grants for youth and addictions counselors. NBCC has contracted the NBCC Foundation to administer the NBCC MFP, MFP-Youth, and MFP-Addictions Counselors.

## Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals Program

In September, the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) announced awards for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) for Professionals grant program. NBCC successfully lobbied to include the counseling profession in these critical grants. The BHWET aims to expand the mental health and substance abuse workforce serving children, adolescents and transition-age youth. At press time, three counselor education programs had confirmed awards totaling \$2.8 million over three years.

# NCC NETWORK

**Connie Miller, NCC, ACS, of Spring Lake Heights, New Jersey,** recently completed her sixth volunteer training with the graduate faculty of the clinical psychology department at the University of Indonesia. She led exercises in Souldrama and action methods for experiential group therapy. The next training will be in Java in August 2015. More information is available at [www.souldrama.com](http://www.souldrama.com).

## SHARE YOUR NEWS!

If you would like to submit an item for NCC Network, refer to the guidelines and deadlines on our Web site. Select Resources for NCCs then *The National Certified Counselor* Newsletter.

**National Certified Counselors who are interested in advocating for the counseling profession and receiving more communications on government relations activities are encouraged to join the NBCC grassroots network. To sign up, send an e-mail to [advocacy@nbcc.org](mailto:advocacy@nbcc.org) with "Grassroots" in the subject line and your contact information with NCC ID in the body.**

The following organizations are NBCC Approved Continuing Education Providers (ACEPs) and may offer NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. The ACEP solely is responsible for all aspects of the program. Continuing education approval or advertisement does not imply NBCC endorsement of any product, method or theory of counseling.

# APA INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS



The APA Office of Continuing Education in Psychology offers over 60 CE courses in its **APA Online Academy** to meet your needs.

These best-selling courses offer:

- multimedia presentations
- downloadable PowerPoint slides
- program quizzes
- printable CE certificates


APA Online Academy courses include:

- *Advanced Assessment and Treatment of Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD/ADHD)* (6 CE clock hours)
- *The Duty to Protect: Ethical, Legal, and Clinical Considerations* (3 CE clock hours)
- *Treating Complex Traumatic Stress Disorders* (3 CE clock hours)

\* The APA Office of Continuing Education in Psychology is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP™) and may offer NBCC-approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. The ACEP solely is responsible for all aspects of the program.





Courses can be taken anywhere with Internet access and are iPhone/iPad compatible!

To purchase, visit <http://advance.captus.com/apa>.  
www.apa.org/ed/ce • 800-374-2721, ext. 5991 (option 3)

## Three Simple Steps to CE Credit!

1. Read select journal articles in *The Professional Counselor* at [tpcjournal.nbcc.org](http://tpcjournal.nbcc.org).
2. Complete the corresponding quiz at [www.i-counseling.net](http://www.i-counseling.net).
3. Earn NBCC-approved CE hours.

bridging the gap in mental health disparities

MAY 29-30, 2015  
Raleigh, North Carolina

For more information, contact the NBCC Foundation at 336-232-0376 or visit [www.nbccf.org/symposium2015](http://www.nbccf.org/symposium2015).



ACEP# 805

## NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Expands

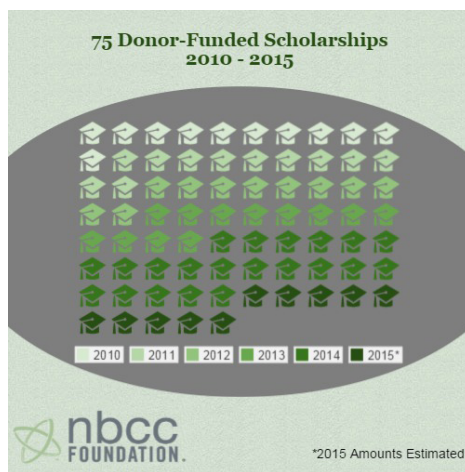
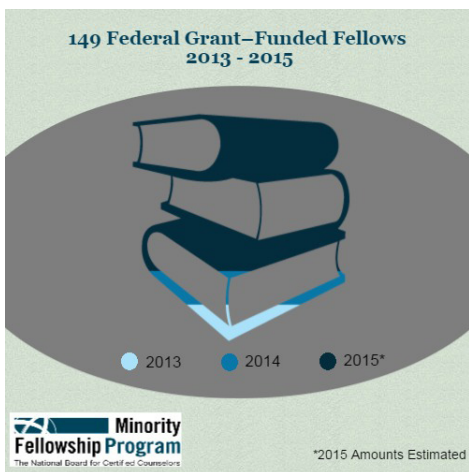
The National Board for Certified Counselors and the NBCC Foundation are proud to announce the receipt of two new federal grants that will fund fellowships for mental health and addictions counselors-in-training. The Foundation has been contracted by NBCC to administer these grants as part of Now Is the Time, President Obama's plan to reduce gun violence. Through the Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC), the Foundation will award 40 fellowships of up to \$11,000 each to master's-level addictions counseling students. Through the Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y), the Foundation will award 40 fellowships of up to \$5,000 each to master's-level mental health counseling students. The Foundation will also award its third round of Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) fellowships of up to \$20,000 each to 23 mental health counseling doctoral students.

The new grant programs will increase the number of culturally competent addictions counselors and mental health counselors available to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25), while the doctoral program will enable fellows to provide leadership to the profession through education, research and practice benefiting vulnerable underserved consumers. The NBCC MFP will further increase system capacity by continuing to provide online and conference-based training to practicing professional counselors.

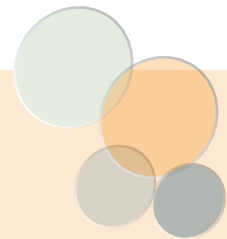
These fellowships are made possible by grants awarded to NBCC and Affiliates by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In addition to administering the fellowships, the Foundation will provide the Fellows with a sustainability package that includes access to mentors, training, supervision, and other tools to help build leadership skills.

Master's fellowships will be announced in January 2015, and doctoral fellowships will be awarded in February 2015.

Learn more at [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships).



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