PRESS RELEASE

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Kshipra Jain Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Washington D.C.—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kshipra Jain, of Washington, District of Columbia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Jain will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, as well as training and collaboration activities, such as <u>webinars</u>, that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). The goal of the program is to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally

competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Jain and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Jain is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, and of Boston University School of Medicine, in Massachusetts, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at The George Washington University (GWU), in Washington D.C. She is a graduate assistant to Dr. Sylvia Marotta-Walters, who is an American Counseling Association Fellow and faculty member at GWU. Jain is also a behavioral health intern at a health care agency in D.C. that strives to provide gender-affirming and inclusive care to primarily LGBTQ+ members of the community. Jain's research interests revolve around enhancing multicultural sensitivity and cultural humility to better serve minority and underserved members of society, both in clinical and supervisory settings. She is passionate about advocating for those who are further stigmatized due to their marginalized intersectional identities, such as racial/ethnic minority immigrants, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and persons who endure sociopolitical/socioeconomic disadvantages. This fellowship will allow Jain to be more involved in educational and training opportunities and gain the mentorship needed to work on her dissertation. During this fellowship, Jain also aims to increase her engagement in social justice and advocacy efforts to empower and give voice to victims of societal and systemic oppression and discrimination.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the <u>MFP-Youth</u> (MFP-Y) and 34 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the <u>MFP-Addictions Counselors</u> (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in fall 2018. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit <u>www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows</u>.

ABOUT THE NBCC FOUNDATION

The NBCC Foundation is the nonprofit affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), based in Greensboro, North Carolina. NBCC is the nation's premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling. Currently, there are

more than 64,000 board-certified counselors in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.