



Zada Dunaiski – MN TRIO Achiever 2011-2012

Zada had an outstanding academic career at the College of St. Scholastica (CSS) including traveling abroad in Ireland, completing a “Semester at Sea”, earning Deans List honors, being chosen as a finalist for National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program and being recognized as a Who’s Who in Undergraduate Students. Zada was a participant in both SSS and McNair while attending CSS. Zada highlighted the impact TRiO had on her life by describing the opportunity McNair gave her to work one on one with a faculty and to establish relationships, research skills and writing tips.

After graduation, Zada volunteered for non-profit organizations worldwide including; Maria's Children (an art rehab studio for disabled Russian orphans in Moscow), the Environmental Green Belt Movement in Kenya (with Wangari Maathi, winner of Nobel peace prize) and many other AIDS orphanages and organizations.

After traveling, Zada worked in Duluth/Superior for one year. She briefly attended USD for a PhD in Biomedical Sciences but decided to change her career path and enrolled at SDSU for an accelerated nursing program. Zada has been a nurse for 4 years. She started her Master's in nursing the day she passed her RN boards. Zada is now serving the Duluth community as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner and is currently enrolled in a Post Master's Certificate program to become a certified nurse midwife. Zada’s McNair research focused on the implantation of the mammalian embryo. She noted that the exact mechanism of implantation still is not known today and remains an interesting, yet unanswered question. Zada fell in love with embryology and physiology while at CSS and finds it interesting that she "ended up" working with obstetric patients.