



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**First Finish Line Scholarship Awarded
to Student Approaching Graduation**



RAPID CITY, SD – Kanda Munson has been awarded the nonprofit National American University (NAU) Foundation’s Finish Line Scholarship for the spring 2018 academic term.

The Finish Line Scholarship opportunity, sponsored by alumnus Adam Borton and his wife, Tricia, was offered to students who are approaching graduation. Application requirements included an essay that asked applicants to address three struggles they have faced in completing their degrees and how they have overcome these obstacles.

“We were looking for a way to encourage and reward long-time students who are approaching graduation to stay the course,” Adam explained. “We thought a scholarship would be perfect.”

Scholarship recipient Kanda Munson is an online student who resides in North Carolina. She first enrolled at NAU in 2012 after being laid off from her long-time employment and nearly 30 years after first enrolling at another college.

“The prospect of college at this stage in my life was daunting,” said Kanda. “Yet, looking back, I appreciate that the circumstances led me to that decision as it fulfilled a lifelong dream to get a college degree.”

Kanda overcame the obstacles of starting over as she approached retirement age, financial challenges, and learning how to study again, to realize academic success. In 2016, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Management, and this spring she will graduate with her Master’s degree.



“Kanda is exactly the type of student that Tricia and I wanted to reward,” said Adam.¹ “It took me 12 years to complete my undergraduate degree due to frequent deployments. I know that students like us have identified strategies that may help other students. Mining that knowledge for current students was another key objective of offering this scholarship.”

¹ NAU Foundation scholarship recipients are selected by independent review committees. Adam and Tricia did not participate in the selection.

For Kanda, a strong support system, NAU and internet study resources, and her own self-discipline helped her overcome obstacles to securing a bachelor's and master's degree. Already, she is serving as a mentor to several NAU undergraduate students and hopes one day to teach college-level courses.

"I wouldn't have been able to accomplish all that I have if it hadn't been for the support that my family," said Kanda. "My biggest supporter was my sister. Any time that I would become discouraged and really be having problems in a class, she would be there to encourage me. She is also the one that encouraged me to go on for my MBA."

Like Kanda, Adam earned his bachelor's degree at NAU and will earn his master's degree this spring. Even as he approaches his second finish line, he looks ahead to reward even more students with the Finish Line Scholarship.

"There is value in every applicant having a solid plan," said Adam. "Plus, there may be some great suggestions in these essays that can be used to help other students."

The National American University Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, proudly supports NAU students and faculty through student scholarships and professional development funds. More information is available at www.naufoundation.org.

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