

# ALUMNI

## 2017 National American Distinguished Service Alumni

Each year, National American University recognizes distinguished alumni across our system. The annual Distinguished Service Alumni Award recipients are “recognized for their educational and professional accomplishments and for actively serving others in the workforce and community.”

Congratulations to the following individuals who received the 2017 Distinguished Service Alumni Award:

### NAU – Rapid City Area (South Dakota)



NAU’s Legacy Alumni collectively received the 2017 Distinguished Service Alumni Award.

Legacy Alumni are all graduates from 1941, the year NAU was founded, to 1950. These alumni took a chance on what was a new university, then-called National School of Business. They are an integral part of the university's longevity and legacy. Several Legacy Alumni have shared their memories and pictures, helping to create a more complete history of the university in its earliest years. Some of these same alumni were able to attend the Rapid City ceremony to receive their award.

[You can read their stories here.](#)

### NAU – Sioux Falls and Watertown (South Dakota)



**Daren Anderson, MSIS**, received the 2017 NAU Distinguished Service Alumni Award at the NAU-Sioux Falls graduation ceremony.

Daren is the President of Big D Technology Solutions in Sioux Falls. He is an active volunteer in Sioux Falls and is an NAU Alumni mentor. He also hosted the first of webinar in the new 2017 Alumni Webinar Series for NAU. Daren Anderson, MSIS received a double Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Information Systems and Management of Information Systems from National American University in Sioux Falls.

## NAU – Bellevue (South Dakota)



**Terry Morgan, MBA, FAC-PPM**, received the 2017 NAU Distinguished Service Alumni Award at the NAU-Bellevue (Nebraska) graduation ceremony.

Terry is a successful professional who also supports his alumni network by sharing employment opportunities, an active community volunteer, a volunteer NAU mentor, and is a regular NAU Foundation donor.

## National American University – Dallas Area (Texas)



**Patti McKenzie** received the 2017 Distinguished Service Alumni Award at the NAU graduation for our Dallas-area graduates.

Patti has been the Director of Marketing at Whataburger of Mesquite, Inc. for more than 26 years. In 2011, she received her Bachelor's of Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing from National American University.

## NAU – Denver and Colorado Springs Area (Colorado)



**Jesse Robinson** received the 2017 Distinguished Service Alumni Award at the NAU graduation for our Denver and Colorado Springs-area graduates.

Jesse graduated Magna Cum Laude from NAU-Denver in 2015 with both Associates and Bachelor's degrees in Cyber/Computer Forensics and Counterterrorism. He is an IT Cyber-Security Engineer/Analyst for Raytheon. He is also the owner of Spookee Teez, a t-shirt printing company.

Jesse retired as Sergeant First Class for the U.S. Army National Guard in February 2015 after serving for more than 14 years.

## National American University - Wichita Area (Kansas)

Congratulations Lana Diaz and Brian Brunt.

## NAU – Albuquerque and Albuquerque West



**Gayle Porter** is Clinical Specialist at New Mexico Crisis & Access Line (ProtoCall) and the Founder/CEO of The Artichoke Group for Counseling and Psychological Services. Founded in 2006, the Artichoke Group is about helping people achieve their full potential in their professional and personal lives. She is also a co-founder and on the board of directors of the New Mexico Survivors of Suicide Loss. Gayle graduated from NAU-Albuquerque with a Bachelor's of Science in Applied Management in 2005, achieving a 4.0.

## NAU-Minneapolis Area

**Lori L. Haskell** is a retired Public Radio International Vice President in Administration, responsible for overseeing IT, Human Resources, Office Management and Facilities, and Legal Functions. She served at PRI for nearly 15 years before retiring. She graduated from NAU with an associate's degree in CIS/Dataprocessing in 1987 and in 1991 with a Bachelor's in Paralegal, Business Law, Business Management & Marketing.

## NAU – Kansas City Area (Missouri)



Michelle Schock, MM, MBA, BSHCM, AASMA, received the 2017 NAU Distinguished Service Alumni Award at the NAU graduation for our Kansas City area graduates.

Michelle received her Associates in Medical Assisting, a Bachelor's in Healthcare Management, and a Dual Master's degree in Business and Management (2014) from NAU. She has served as adjunct faculty for NAU and is the Office Manager at Encompass Medical Group where she has had the privilege of hiring NAU graduates.

## NAU – Austin Area (Texas)



Christy Lewis received the 2017 NAU Distinguished Service Alumni Award at the NAU graduation ceremony for our Dallas area graduates. Christy is the Director of Member Services for the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council. She received her Master's Degree in Management from NAU in 2015.