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National American University Foundation Awards First Bill Tschetter Paralegal Studies Scholarship

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA – Priyanka S. Shah, a National American University (NAU) Paralegal Studies student, has been awarded the first Bill Tschetter Paralegal Studies Academic Excellence Scholarship from the nonprofit NAU Foundation.



Priyanka Shah

Priyanka was selected from among several applicants. Eligible students were enrolled in NAU’s College of Legal Studies, pursuing paralegal degrees. They were judged on academic achievement, financial need and an essay relating to their career goals.

“Being a paralegal has always been one of my passions,” wrote Priyanka, who expects to graduate in May 2017. “My major interest is being an Immigration Paralegal. I have traveled around the world with my family from a very young age. I know how people struggle to gain citizenship in their chosen countries. I would like to help people in that situation gain their rights and be proud citizens.”

“Priyanka is very deserving,” remarked Professor Ben Straight, who teaches paralegal and criminal justice courses for NAU. “I’m facilitating her upcoming internship which will focus on real-world paralegal practice and techniques not taught in class. She will be ready to hit the ground running following her May graduation.”

The paralegal studies scholarship honors R. William “Bill” Tschetter. Bill, who practiced law in Rapid City from 1976-1995, founded the NAU Paralegal Studies Program in 1988, and served as its director until his retirement in 1995.

“Bill was a man of vision,” recalls Paul Sedlacek, NAU’s General Counsel. “The college didn’t start the program. Bill approached the college. A lot of people are slowing down at age 64, not starting something new.”

The inaugural scholarship in Bill’s memory was made possible by the Julius & Simpson law firm in Rapid City and the Hon. Robert L. Tschetter Family.



Bill Tschetter

The National American University Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, supports NAU students and faculty through scholarships and professional development funds. More information is available at www.naufoundation.org. If you would like to contribute to the Bill Tschetter Paralegal Studies Scholarship fund, please contact Tamie Hopp at 605-394-4976 or foundation@national.edu for details.