

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Name: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Date: January 28, 2015

Title: Student Spotlight: Minnesota State University, Mankato

Purpose (check one):

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed
New Policy or
Amendment to
Existing Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Approvals
Required by
Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Approvals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring /
Compliance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information | |

Brief Description:

This item will provide a ten minute spotlight on a student success story from Minnesota State University, Mankato. The student will have two to three minutes to give a brief background of their time with Minnesota State Mankato and how it has shaped their life.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Trustee Anderson Kelliher (introduces institution)
John O'Brien
Abrar Zawed (Student and presenter)
President Richard Davenport
David Sharlin (Abrar's Research Professor - attendee)
Brian Martensen (Interim Dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology - attendee)

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INFORMATION ITEM
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

BACKGROUND

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board Trustee Anderson Kelliher implemented a student and institution spotlight for each board meeting, where students and institutions from the MnSCU system tell their stories of success.

This information item will present students from the campuses for trustees to meet and hear their stories of how the offerings of MnSCU institutions made quality higher education accessible to them or others.

The student spotlight for this meeting includes:

Abrar Zawed, a junior from Chittagong, Bangladesh is enrolled in Minnesota State Mankato's Honors program and was awarded a RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) Fellowship to the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany. Last May he spent 10 weeks in Martinsried, Germany, assisting the doctoral research of Neysan Donnelly. Zawed's research studied the effects of chromosome abnormalities on human cells.

Zawed has participated in undergraduate research at Minnesota State Mankato under the supervision of David Sharlin, an assistant professor in Minnesota State Mankato's Department of Biological Sciences.



Student Receives 10-Week International Fellowship

Junior Abrar Zawed to assist doctoral research in Martinsried, Germany.

Mankato, Minn. – Minnesota State University, Mankato student Abrar Zawed (pictured) was recently awarded a RISE (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) Fellowship to the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany.

Beginning May 20, Zawed will spend 10 weeks in Martinsried, a suburb of Munich, Germany, assisting the doctoral research of Neysan Donnelly. Zawed's research will study the effects of chromosome abnormalities on human cells.

Zawed, a junior from Chittagong, Bangladesh, is enrolled in Minnesota State Mankato's Honors Program and is majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in chemistry. He is one of 300 undergraduates to receive the award from more than 2,200 applicants from the United States, Canada and the U.K. A stipend from DAAD covers interns' living expenses.

"I would like to thank the (Minnesota State Mankato) Honors Program and Office of University Fellowships for their support and encouragement," said Zawed. "This research experience will motivate me to come up with new ideas regarding my ongoing research and help me to achieve my academic goals in the future."

Zawed has participated in undergraduate research at Minnesota State Mankato under the supervision of David Sharlin, an assistant professor in Minnesota State Mankato's Department of Biological Sciences.

"Abrar has played an integral part in lab's goal to develop new molecular tools for investigating the role of thyroid hormone action in auditory system development," said Sharlin. "His project has provided the opportunity for him to develop modern molecular biology skills that will serve him in his future research career. It is great to know that his hard work was acknowledged with being awarded this prestigious fellowship."

Zawed will present research in April at both the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Lexington, Ky., and the Undergraduate Research Symposium at Minnesota State Mankato.

The RISE Fellowship Program is sponsored by Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, or DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), which offers undergraduate students the chance to work with research groups at universities and institutions across Germany.