Christensen ’20 Is a Fulbright Finalist

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Christensen ’20 Is a Fulbright Finalist

Her success speaks to the power and value of a UMN Morris education on the global stage.

- Mara Christensen ’20, Two Harbors, is a Fulbright U.S. Student Program finalist.
- An elementary education major, Christensen was chosen to spend a year in South Korea.
- Christensen ends her undergraduate career with a prestigious national award.

Mara Christensen ’20, Two Harbors, is a Fulbright U.S. Student Program finalist. Her success speaks to the power and value of a University of Minnesota Morris education on the global stage.

Christensen earned an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) award, which places students in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to local English teachers. Fulbright Students also represent the United States as cultural ambassadors during their time overseas.

An elementary education major, Christensen was chosen to spend a year in South Korea as an English Teaching Assistant. There she would have the opportunity to teach children not only about English as a language, but also about the nuances of and diversity within American culture.

"I am honored to be awarded the Fulbright ETA to South Korea," says Christensen. "This opportunity invites me to represent my culture and community on a global scale, while gaining a unique experience as a teacher and learning about another culture. I want to thank my professors, family, friends, and the Fulbright program for their support in achieving this humbling award."

UMN Morris on a Global Stage
Five Morris students submitted Fulbright applications this year, supported by advising from faculty and staff through the Academic Center for Enrichment, and all were semifinalists. Christensen is one of two finalists.

"As one of the country's top public liberal arts colleges, UMN Morris provides talented students access to life-changing educational opportunities," said Chancellor Michelle Behr. "Our exceptional students are prepared to live as engaged global citizens, and we are excited for their upcoming Fulbright experiences."

About Fulbright
The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments,
host institutions, corporations, and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The Program operates in over 160 countries worldwide. Learn more at eca.state.gov/fulbright.