

To the panel for the INSPIRE Scholarship,

As a daughter of a Middle Eastern family, I grew up learning two things: hard work and generosity. These two values have been the center of my morals and belief-systems. When I entered college, my parents did not understand much on guiding me since they did not attend college in America. Soon after starting college, I realized I wanted to save money by doing college in 3 years rather than 4 years and take a gap year before medical school to save money for further schooling and to have more time to build my medical school application. Since I am planning to finish earlier, summer classes have been my responsibility since they are a couple thousand dollars. American University has been a blessing; however, the finance has felt overwhelming. During the pandemic, I worked as a personal shopper, working 50 hours a week, but tried my best to make money to pay off summer classes. This took a toll on my grades, therefore I decided to focus on research, where I received funding and I paid off my summer classes. This summer, I am planning to take a full semester's credits, so that for my spring semester I hold only 2 classes to focus on MCAT studying. This scholarship will not only allow me to have a financial security for summer classes, but will rebuild my confidence for my future, that others, rather than just I, see potential in myself. The scholarship I received last summer has helped me with a boost of confidence, that a panel of professionals see potential in a student with big ambitions and goals. The past semester I received a perfect GPA of 4.0, and I wish to keep working to perfect grades and build my skills with unpaid programs. This scholarship will assist me to focus on my summer classes without worries of working overtime. I currently work as a pharmacy technician trainee, training until I receive my certification, and with the release of the vaccines, I have been working more than I have hoped so. This scholarship will also allow me to focus on classes rather than working over to make an extra couple hundred dollars in a month. I also plan to attend a program, Lawndale Summer Medical Project, which aims to immerse students in a health insecure community in a suburb in Chicago. This project aligns with my goals, of becoming a doctor for a missionary group, that will serve countries in the Middle East, preferably, Syria, where my family is from. This scholarship will also allow me to fund this small trip and serve this community. My major has taught me to view health as a holistic trait, that lifestyle changes can potentially save lives if implemented correctly. By serving the community of Lawndale, I can apply and advance the knowledge I have learned from my major and build skills that will help me become a well-rounded physician. Most importantly, I want to receive this scholarship to make you, the panel funding these plans I have, proud of me, and want to see the money going towards projects that will enhance my education.

Thank you for considering my application,

Michelle Hadad



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

March 12, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I would like to offer my full support and recommendation for Michelle Hadad to receive the INSPIRE Scholarship (William Taylor Memorial). Michelle is currently a second year student majoring in Public Health at American University. Before coming to American University, Michelle received her high school diploma at Paul VI High School in Fairfax County, VA.

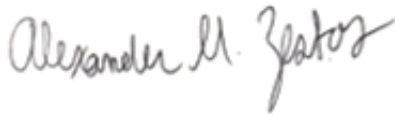
Michelle recently joined my laboratory approximately one year ago. Michelle is an outstanding pre-medical student who wishes to pursue biomedical research before applying to medical school to eventually become a practicing physician. Specifically, Michelle has been helping me construct carbon fiber-microelectrodes (CFMEs) that will be used to detect neurotransmitters such as dopamine, serotonin, norepinephrine, adenosine, and others using fast scan cyclic voltammetry (FSCV).

Michelle is a highly motivated and dedicated individual as evidenced by her excellence in her coursework, research, and extracurricular activities. Michelle has a great potential to become a renowned physician scientist. At American University, she is a member of my research group. Michelle has helped me construct and develop CFMEs that are used for the detection of neurotransmitters using FSCV. Michelle has helped the lab make electrode materials, install instrumentation, train other students, and detect dopamine and other neurotransmitters with FSCV. This work is tremendously important as it will allow us to detect dopamine *in vivo* that could be important for understanding Parkinson's Disease, drug abuse, and other behavioral and neurological diseases.

If she receives this prestigious scholarship, then I am sure that she will work hard to maximize her full potential. She has a fantastic work ethic and has been very productive in both the laboratory and the classroom. Last year, she received the AU STEM NASA DC Space Grant Student Summer Research Program Fellowship to perform research in my laboratory. Despite the pandemic, she made great progress in making electrodes, stock solutions, and measuring dopamine and other neurotransmitters. Currently, she is developing assays to measure serotonin and cortisol as a biomarker for bipolar depression and stress.

Michelle's attention to detail, work ethic, and commitment to science all would make her very worthy of your scholarship. From all of the students that I have mentored, Michelle is easily one of my brightest and hardworking students. Michelle displays both strong leadership and teamwork capabilities that will allow her to thrive in almost any research environment. Having gotten to know Michelle personally, I truly believe that her integrity of character and selflessness further make her qualified for this prestigious scholarship. Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding Michelle's candidacy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander M. Zestos". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Alexander G. Zestos, Ph.D
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

I have a personally known Michelle Hadad for about a year now. We coincidentally met at work and as I reflect on that, I admire how unique that is as I had not been interested or motivated to make friends through my workplace as would usually be expected. Our friendship grew very strong and fast as we talked about so much around our futures, ambitions, and problems in our society. She quickly and impressively took up a large portion of my time just from her intriguing personality. In this one year that I've known her, we've covered so much that it feels as if it has been 5 years.

We have both received each others' presence exceptionally well and I've even had the chance to meet and get to know her family. I could tell from my interactions with them that they have raised her very well. She's been one of my most ambitious friends with dreams that require commitment, dedication, and intelligence. All characteristics that she's continuously displayed to me and many others. She has notably balanced many tasks consistently between college, work, and volunteering.

Michelle is taking her current research project very seriously. She's working on releasing official research through her professor, and has described to me how she is planning to format it and how much she's looking forward to finally moving past the introductory phase of the research. She is looking forward to researching important ideas that can accelerate the healthcare field, things that are undiscovered or not widely researched which I believe is very important in making progress.

Academically, Michelle has been very strong. As a preliminary medical student, she understands what medical school will demand and how intense it will be. She's naturally very studious and spends much of her time reading books to learn more or physically be on campus to devote time to research or study in a controlled environment. She has been so dedicated to this that she has continued to go to campus safely even with the COVID-19 pandemic happening around us. She has not limited herself or set excuses as to why she couldn't do things. Instead, she pertains to problem solve and overcome any obstacles in her path.

This scholarship will allow her more time to focus on her classes and scholar papers. She's committed to going to medical school, and her dedication is quite honorable as I believe she will make great advancements through her interest in intense scientific courses such as chemistry. Her already proven progress portrays her future clearly and her intelligence will carry her further and cause her achievements to be exponential.

Michelle is also a very emotional and empathetic human being. She does not wish to see anyone ill or in pain. Thus, I am sure drives her to attend medical school. She has been undeniably selfless constantly and shows very promising characteristics of someone I imagine to be a doctor. She has told me that she had been wanting to go overseas after medical school to assist as a doctor without borders, a very difficult and demanding position that is a clear example of her selfless character.

It is absolutely impossible for me to sum up Michelle in this letter as she has too many valuable qualities to be seen that I have personally witnessed. I full heartedly recommend Michelle for this scholarship as I can fully attest that her qualities and dedication will carry her far into her health career and research, she will be a wonderful and unmatched candidate. If there are any questions about me or Michelle, I am

willing and open to answer them through phone (571-315-0566) or email (ShadyZaki101@gmail.com), whichever is more convenient.

HADAD MICHELLE 4934093 04/25

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6.00 HOURS CREDIT ACCEPTED FROM EXAM(S)
TRANSFER CREDITS ACCEPTED 10.00 HOURS FROM
NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE -- A

AU CUM SUM: 73.00HRS ATT 56.00HRS ERND 213.36QP 3.81GPA
END OF TRANSCRIPT

FALL 2019

BIO-110	GENERAL BIOLOGY I	04.00	A-	14.68
CORE-100	AU EXPERIENCE I	01.50	A	06.00
CORE-105	COMPLEX PROBLEMS SEMINAR			
	WELCOME TO THE ANTHROPOCENE	03.00	A	12.00
HLTH-240	INTRO TO HEALTH PROMOTION	03.00	A	12.00
MATH-170	PRECALCULUS MATHEMATICS	03.00	A	12.00
PSYC-100	INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY	03.00	A	12.00
	DEAN'S LIST			
	AU SEM SUM: 17.50HRS ATT 17.50HRS ERND 68.68QP 3.92GPA			

SPRING 2020

Grading Policy change: Expanded pass/fail allowed due to COVID-19 interruption

BIO-210	GENERAL BIOLOGY II	04.00	A-	14.68
CAS-070	INTRO TO FIELDS OF MEDICINE	00.00	P	00.00
CHEM-110	GENERAL CHEMISTRY I	04.00	B+	13.32
CORE-200	AU EXPERIENCE II	01.50	A	06.00
MATH-221	CALCULUS I	04.00	B	12.00
PERF-115	THEATRE:PRIN,PLAYS & PERFORM	03.00	A	12.00
	AU SEM SUM: 16.50HRS ATT 16.50HRS ERND 58.00QP 3.51GPA			

SUMMER 2020

CHEM-210	GENERAL CHEMISTRY II	04.00	A-	14.68
	AU SEM SUM: 4.00HRS ATT 4.00HRS ERND 14.68QP 3.67GPA			

FALL 2020

BIO-301	HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I	04.00	A	16.00
CHEM-310	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I	03.00	A	12.00
CHEM-312	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I LAB	01.00	A	04.00
HLTH-245	MULTICULTURAL HEALTH	03.00	A	12.00
HLTH-335	HEALTH PROGRAM PLANNING	03.00	A	12.00
STAT-202	BASIC STATISTICS	04.00	A	16.00
	DEAN'S LIST			
	AU SEM SUM: 18.00HRS ATT 18.00HRS ERND 72.00QP 4.00GPA			

SPRING 2021

BIO-302	HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II	04.00	--	---
CHEM-320	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II	03.00	--	---
CHEM-322	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II LAB	01.00	--	---
HLTH-250	STRATEGIES IN STRESS MANAGEMNT	03.00	--	---
PHIL-120	DO THE RIGHT THING	03.00	--	---
PSYC-333	HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY	03.00	--	---
	AU SEM SUM: 17.00HRS ATT 0.00HRS ERND 0.00QP 0.00GPA			

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