



News Release

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Century Student Finishes Interior Design Program and Earns Degree from Metro State

Century College Interior Design student Dana Duce of Minneapolis found a creative way to earn her bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University at the same time she finished the interior design program at Century College.

Duce, 25, designed her own Metro State major that accepts the credits she earned in the Century Interior Design program. She graduated from Metro State and finished the Century program this month.

Sandy Anderson of Century's Interior Design program said this is the first time a student has accomplished this concurrent enrollment, and it has worked very well. "We have a good relationship with Metro State," said Anderson. "They have a lot of respect for our program."

Duce said she is thrilled to be earning a bachelor's degree that encompasses the interior design skills she is most interested in. "Once I discovered what I really wanted to do, it all fell into place," said Duce.

A 2003 graduate of Chaska High School, Duce said she started her higher education journey at a private college in St. Paul, but became increasingly concerned about the cost, especially since she wasn't sure what her career goal was. She transferred to a public university in Wisconsin, but didn't embrace small-town life.

At that point, she took a year and a half off from school and worked until she heard about the individualized bachelor's degree program at Metro State. Working with an academic counselor there, she learned that she could pursue her interest in interior design by attending Century College and applying those credits to a bachelor's degree from Metro State.

"I needed to go somewhere that was more focused on adult learning, and Century was perfect," said Duce.

She spent two years at Century attending Interior Design classes while also taking courses at Metro State. She also worked part-time and accomplished an internship. This schedule kept her busy day and night for seven days a week. "It will be such a relief to have a day off," Duce said. "I was really inspired to get this done once I finally found my direction. I felt I had to make up for lost time."

Duce said the Century Interior Design program sparked her interest in hotel and restaurant design, and she may pursue a job in that area.

Duce advised young people to get as much information as they can before they choose a college. "It is possible to waste a lot of time and money unless you do this research," she said.



Photo: Dana Duce