



## **Anisha Zak – 2018 Young Careerist Award Recipient**

Anisha's story looks a bit different compared to most. She was abandoned on the streets of her birth country, India, right after she was born. She then spent her first three months of life living in an orphanage malnourished, unhealthy, and clinging to life. Thankfully, a family in Minnesota was hoping to add a baby girl to their family of four biological boys. Anisha joined her family and lived a new life full of love and support. Since then, Anisha graduated high school, obtained a four-year college degree in child development, and has worked with youth in many roles. She and her husband are also parents to three young children of their own. Anisha came to Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) in August of 2017 as the Workforce Entry Coordinator; focusing on counseling high school aged students and developing their career plan. So far, she has met with 90 Steele County students, putting her in a position to exceed her goal for the year. The work that she's doing is meaningful to her because of her own background. Helping others has always been important to her and something she's passionate about. It's her way of giving back as she feels she was given a second chance at life.

Anisha was most recently awarded the 2018 Young Careerist Award, an award that is given based on nominations. A local organization called the Owatonna Business Women reviews and selects the recipients of this award, and they received an anonymous nomination for Anisha. This year there were many nominees and only two recipients were chosen. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge a young business woman of Steele County for her accomplishments thus far in her career and highlight the promise she shows in her future careers. An awards banquet took place on March 9th in Owatonna. Congratulations and welcome Anisha Zak; you're an outstanding addition to WDI!

*(Sonji Davis, WDI, Area Manager)*