



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Navy names Samantha Neirby as one of the first female submarine officer candidates.

The old phrase “You don’t have to be a rocket scientist,” has special meaning when selecting candidates for duty as U.S. Navy submarine officers. In fact, you have to have much more mental capacity and endurance capability to serve in an officer capacity aboard one of the world’s most sophisticated missile bearing, nuclear powered, submersible warships. The Navy has determined that Samantha Neirby has what it takes.

Bright and articulate, this 22-year-old Moorhead, Minnesota, native and Michigan Technological University student will graduate in April with a BS degree in chemical engineering and a solid career path with the U.S. Navy.

“Growing up I wanted to be a firefighter, but I always had an interest in the sciences and a special interest in alternative fuel sources.” Neirby said. “Nuclear technology is especially

important because nuclear energy will almost certainly be the most viable power source for the next few decades. The Navy's nuclear program can put me at the forefront of that," she added.

Samantha Neirby was captain of the swim team at Moorhead High School, so opportunities in the Navy were identified early on. "I considered becoming an underwater welder in the Navy, but decided on college first," she said.

Her selection of Michigan Technological University as her school of choice also came following solid evaluation. The school is challenging in virtually every discipline, but is especially well regarded for her field, chemical engineering. It also is known to have a high job placement rate for its graduates.

After graduation from Michigan Tech, Neirby will go to the Navy's Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, where she will be commissioned upon graduation. Next, she will attend nuclear power school in Goose Creek, South Carolina, to start a one-year training period before her next duty assignment.

Neirby was particularly drawn to Navy recruiters during a 2008 career fair that was held at the university. There she learned about the Navy's Nuclear Power School and Nuclear Prototype training. She also learned that the Navy would provide financing for her education in return for her enlistment. Participating in the Navy's Nuclear Power Officer Candidate program has made that all possible. Qualifying for submarine officer candidacy is an added plus.

"My dad died when I was 12 years old, but before that he told me 'If it is worth having, you will have to fight to get it.' I think he would be proud of this victory," she concluded.

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