

A LITTLE ABOUT ZACH KOESTLER

Zach Koestler, who is now 20 years old, attended Inver Hills Community College in 2017. While Zach was at Inver Hills, he played hockey, participated in TRIO, belonged to Phi Theta Kappa and served as a student ambassador.

Zach's major was Elementary Education because education really saved his trajectory and his life when he found that school was his passage to success. Zach wishes to one day instill that hope in his students.

I was excited to hear back from Zach because I love working with kids as well. Let me tell you about me and my goals.



I am Buffy Friedman, I'm 44 years old and I currently attend Inver Hills. I chose Early Childhood Education due to my passion for working with preschool-age kids, who have a way about them that inspires me.

As I go into early childhood education, I hope to guide these children onto the right path. Zach and I are both going into education. Zach is seeking to work in elementary education, and I am going into early childhood. We are both making work with children our passion.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM ALICIA ATWATER ZACH'S TRIO ADVISOR, FRIEND AND FELLOW INVER ALUM:

Zach was an integral member of our TRIO team as a student and as a mentor. He is vivacious, has an infectious laugh, and goes above and beyond what is expected of him in his personal and academic life.



Zach & Alicia

Zach also partnered with a former TRIO mentor to reimagine our mentoring process by doing research, creating a proposal and putting our new programming into motion. Zach spent four years either as a student, a mentor, or as a former mentor turned volunteer for our Summer Bridge program because he truly values the experience and believes this is vital for many of our students' success.

Right now, Zach has transferred to a four-year institution where he is pursuing a degree to teach and is highly successful in his academics. Zach truly demonstrates the power of TRIO. #TRIOWORKS!"

I'd also like to point out that Zach has become part of our family as well. He and his partner have babysat my children for more than 3.5 years, gone on family vacations, and spent holidays with us. I cannot imagine my family's life without Zach in it. He isn't just a former student anymore; he's family.

BY BUFFY FRIEDMAN