

### **Farah Hirani, Wins 2014-2015 Outstanding EXL Student Award**

The Outstanding EXL Student Award is given annually to a student who holds a distinguished record of service in the EXL Scholars Program. Student Farah Hirani learned the importance of experiential and service learning when she entered the nursing program on campus. In order to be successful as a nurse, it was important to Hirani that she worked with real patients as opposed to applying lecture material to a mannequin. Through her EXL classes, she was given the opportunity to work with many patients at a variety of healthcare facilities in the area. Hirani took every opportunity she could to improve her relationship with her peers, supervisors, and patients, never turning down a new challenge that could expand her skills in a professional setting. In addition to her hard work in healthcare facilities, Hirani extended this dedication to her school and the community as a whole. Throughout her academic career, Hirani served as secretary, treasurer, and then president to over 200 students in the Student Nursing Association. She additionally served as a Student Government Association Senator for the Behavioral and Art Sciences Department and volunteered as a nurse at many community events. To sum up her experience in the EXL Program, Hirani states, "It is an honor to be a part of the EXL courses and be able to share my knowledge and experiences with people outside the walls of MTSU. If I could, I would only do EXL courses because that is what I love to do. No test or paperwork can make you gain confidence to talk to people and to build time management in the real world. What we do in these EXL courses is a huge impact to the community because it relieves stress of the nurses, there is more help at the hospitals, and they love to see student nurses because they always have so much insight to give and share."