



FIRST-GENERATION INITIATIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

As the flagship and land grant university for Nebraska, diversity and inclusion are central to our mission and pursuit of excellence. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln promotes respect for and understanding of cultural diversity in all aspects of society. We strive for a culturally-diverse student body, faculty and staff who reflect the multicultural nature of Nebraska and the nation. The below programs show our commitment to the recruitment, retention and degree completion of our first-generation scholars.

RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FIRST-GENERATION SCHOLARS

SPANISH VISIT DAYS

These free campus visits are hosted in Spanish to better serve our prospective scholars and their families. These visits have been extremely popular and we're proud to have hosted dozens of scholars and more than a hundred Spanish-speaking family members on campus.

DIVERSITY SYMPOSIA

The Diversity Symposia Series is an annual event held by the Office of Admissions. The events have included: Black Leadership Symposium, Latino Leadership Symposium, Native Leadership Symposium (Native College Day), Asian Leadership Symposium and an "I'm First" Symposium for first-generation students. The events bring hundreds of Nebraska scholars to campus every year. Through programming, the events encourage Nebraska youth to start conversations about diversity in their community, barriers they face and how to overcome them as they build their futures.

COLLEGE VISIT GRANTS

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is committed to increasing the college-going rate of scholars who find college attainment a major obstacle. Visiting campus is one way to increase a scholar's probability of attending college. The College Visit Grant program provides financial support to schools and community organizations to facilitate their visit to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS DIVERSITY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

University of Nebraska-Lincoln staff works with community organizations and partners to present college and financial aid information sessions at no charge.

SPANISH LANGUAGE MATERIALS

Admissions and Multicultural, Steps to College and Paying for College guides are created in Spanish to make information more accessible.

EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

A federally-funded grant program since 1990, ETS serves approximately 950 annually who are first-generation and low-income or underrepresented ethnic minority students. Collaboratively partnering with three high schools and five middle schools in the Lincoln Public School district, ETS provides services in academic, financial and career advising, career exploration, tutoring, financial aid assistance, mentoring and special activities and workshops for sixth, seventh and eighth graders and their families.

REGULAR UPWARD BOUND

Since 1999, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln has received funding for Upward Bound Math and Science, which collaborates with three Lincoln high schools (Northstar, Northeast and Lincoln High) and community organizations to provide academic and career advising to approximately 63 students annually. Services include academic instruction in mathematics, laboratory sciences, composition, literature and foreign languages during a six-week intensive academic program with a two-week residential component, which includes academic counseling and tutoring, cultural and educational enrichment activities, and assistance for students and families with admission and financial literacy regarding postsecondary programs. This program is designed for students traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, including youth who are homeless, in foster care or other disconnected students.

UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE

Similar to the regular Upward Bound, this program focuses on intensive math and science training that expose students to faculty engaged in math and science research; year-round counseling and advising, tutoring, mentoring and shadowing with agencies and departments in math and science related fields are also available.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE PROGRAMS FOR FIRST-GENERATION SCHOLARS

FIRST HUSKER PROGRAM

First Husker introduces first-generation scholars to academic, social and financial resources and opportunities. Established in 2015, First Husker scholars come to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln the Sunday before fall semester move-in and engage in a four-day program to help ease their adjustment to college life and build a foundation for academic success. They meet with a variety of faculty and staff in interactive workshops, receive tips and advice on how to start their college experiences, and enjoy social activities with other First Husker peers. Topics include academic success in large classes, time management, financial literacy, diversity and leadership, goal setting, touring campus resources and networking with other First Husker scholars. In fall 2017, First Husker incorporated a weekly academic success seminar and monthly individual coaching appointments led by success coaches in the Office of First Year Experience and Transition Programs to ensure greater support the college transition. Approximately 320 scholars have participated in First Husker since 2015.

FIRST-GENERATION NEBRASKA INITIATIVE

The First-Generation Nebraska (FGN) initiative is a network that links first-generation college scholars with faculty and staff who self-identify as first-generation college scholars or as advocates. Established in 2017 by the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor, FGN has distributed first-generation buttons and office placards, organized networking and social receptions and a meal program, and most recently created a digital signage campaign profiling University of Nebraska–Lincoln faculty and staff who were first-generation college scholars themselves.

The FGN Advisory Board—comprised of scholars, faculty and staff—meets once a semester to plan events and provide feedback on the initiative to the Executive Vice Chancellor’s Office. More details can be found at go.unl.edu/first-generation. FGN events scheduled for fall 2018 include the following:

- First Gen Tailgate, Friday, September 14 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Mari's Lounge (Abel/Sandoz Hall)
- Share a Meal Days: Four days throughout the year when first-generation scholars can eat a free meal with faculty and staff in reserved spaces within a Nebraska dining hall.
 - Tuesday, October 23rd from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Selleck
 - Wednesday, November 14th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the East Campus Cafe
 - Tuesday, February 12th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Selleck
 - Wednesday, March 6th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the East Campus Café
- Faculty and Staff Workshop, featuring alum, Morgan McCain, Friday, Oct. 26 from 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- Faculty and Staff Book Club on *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, authored by Jeannine Capó Crucet, English Department.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

NEBRASKA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

The Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA) prepares first-generation and low-income scholars from Grand Island, Omaha North Magnet, Omaha South Magnet and Winnebago high schools to achieve personal and academic excellence. NCPA scholars participate in academic counseling and support, leadership building and personal development throughout high school and college. NCPA scholars receive the full direct cost of attendance to attend the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Students are provided a comprehensive academic retention program to ensure their academic success. In fact, NCPA college scholars have averaged a 91.8% freshmen-year-to-sophomore retention rate over the last five years, compared to University of Nebraska–Lincoln's average rate of 82.2%. During the 2016-2017 academic year, the 104 NCPA college scholars had an average GPA of 3.25 and the 208 NCPA high school scholars had an average GPA ranging from 3.31 to 3.87. As of May 2018, a total of 56 NCPA scholars have graduated from college.

EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

Established in fall 2016, the Emerging Leader scholarship retention program was designed for low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented ethnic minority scholars to receive a \$2,000 renewable scholarship based on participation in Admissions' diversity events and a successful high school academic record. Recipients are required to participate in a one-hour course on diversity and leadership and a recitation section, meet with a success coach, attend peer mentor activities, and receive financial aid counseling to earn renewal of their scholarship for up to four years. There are approximately 250 current Emerging Leader Scholars, with another 100 incoming this fall.

WILLIAM H THOMPSON SCHOLARS LEARNING COMMUNITY

The William H Thompson (WHT) program is comprised of over 1,100 low-income scholars from Nebraska, many of whom are first-generation and/or ethnically diverse, who receive full tuition scholarships for five years from philanthropic donations and participate in an academic learning community. These scholars take co-enrolled courses taught by select faculty in their first two years and participate in academic, cultural, and social programming, peer mentoring and academic advising.

OASIS

The Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services (OASIS) prioritizes serving first-generation, low-income, underrepresented scholars. Its mission is to enhance scholar success by promoting academic excellence, diversity awareness and social engagement, providing transformative experiences that foster a sense of belonging. The OASIS Student Success Program provides first-year scholars with seminars where they learn

skills that help with retention and where they receive additional support from professional staff as well as peer mentors. The 232 scholars who participated last year earned an average GPA of 3.08 and 21 earned a 4.0. This fall, 350 incoming scholars are enrolled.

OASIS also provides diversity awareness training and cultural heritage celebrations. Last year more than 5,000 scholars, faculty and staff attended such events. Additional programs include:

- The OASIS Leadership Program: Teaches leadership skills and diversity awareness.
- The Male Initiative: Provides support/resources to male scholars of color.
- The Study Studio: Provides free tutoring and academic support.
- The OASIS Hindi Language Program: Prepares scholars to study abroad.
- Dish It Up: Allows scholars to weekly discuss salient topics in a safe space.
- The OASIS Lunch and Learn Program: Promotes campus opportunities for engagement.

FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROGRAMS

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Since 1983, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln has received federal funding for Student Support Services (SSS) for 350 scholars annually in collaboration with several educational organizations (EducationQuest, Partnership for Kids, Kim Foundation). SSS Scholars participate in specially-identified academic courses and receive academic tutoring and advising, financial aid and career counseling, and exposure to cultural events and academic programs. Scholars are first-generation and low income or underrepresented ethnic minorities and/or have a disability.

MCNAIR SCHOLARS

Since 1995, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln has secured funding to provide undergraduate research experiences for first-generation and low-income or underrepresented ethnic minority students. Each year, 28 McNair Scholars participate in an eight-week summer research experience with mentoring from top University of Nebraska–Lincoln faculty and then present their results at a national conference. McNair scholars also receive educational planning and counseling based on individual interests, tutoring and writing assistance, seminars on how to navigate graduate school admissions processes, laptop loans and other resources to support their success. Since 1995, 288 University of Nebraska–Lincoln McNair scholars have earned the following:

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN MCNAIR SCHOLARS	
97.7%	Bachelor's Degrees
41	Ph.D.s
133	Master's Degrees
19	Professional Degrees

In addition, former University of Nebraska–Lincoln McNair scholars are currently enrolled in 26 Ph.D. programs, eight Master's programs, and two are pursuing Professional Doctorates.