



NEBRASKA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

knowledge | character | commitment

2022-2023 annual report

Grand Island Senior High School
Omaha North High Magnet School
Omaha South High Magnet School
Winnebago Public Schools

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



Trenchard Foundation
Institute of Excellence

PETER KIEWIT
FOUNDATION

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

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FOREWORD

True to its land-grant mission, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) is committed to providing access to higher education. The Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA) is a testament of this commitment. I am pleased to report that NCPA had another terrific year.

This year, NCPA celebrated 20 scholars who graduated from UNL. The graduates received an exceptional education and are entering their professional careers with a strong community of support and without the burden of student loan debt. We continue to be inspired by the strength and talent of our youth.

NCPA also achieved the significant milestone of 150 graduates from UNL. What started as an innovative pilot program in 2006 with a cohort of eighth-grade students has expanded into a model of college access that serves more than 470 students and their families, and impacts hundreds more at Grand Island, Omaha North, Omaha South, and Winnebago High Schools.

In addition to supporting the academic and personal success of NCPA scholars, NCPA developed tailored events to address the phenomenon known as “the network gap.” The network gap acknowledges low-income students are often less likely to have people within their social networks who can provide them with recommendations or give them substantial economic advice for advanced education or business start-ups. NCPA scholars connected with 40+ UNL alumni and professionals during business visits, networking and career panels and one-to-one mentorship opportunities that provide them with early career advice and potential entry into high-income generating fields. I invite you to read more on page 12.

A trait that sets NCPA scholars apart is their commitment to serving their community. NCPA high school scholars completed 2,000+ hours of community service-learning hours during the 2022-23 school year. Some of the completed projects include making 95 tie-blankets for the Omaha Children’s Hospital, 250 sack lunches for the Open Door Mission and 34 Winter Warmth Kits for the homeless shelter. We are grateful to NCPA scholars for their commitment to their communities.

At the collegiate level, NCPA scholars excelled above and beyond the program goals set before them, from being accepted into honors programs and earning awards to serving in leadership positions and being actively involved in student organizations. College scholars averaged a 3.17 cumulative GPA, and 83 scholars were honored at the Academic Excellence reception for earning a semester GPA of 3.5 and above. We look forward to welcoming 52 first-year scholars in August who will join the Trenchard Foundation Institute of Excellence, NCPA’s four-year college support program.

The success of NCPA is a result of the commitment of NCPA scholars to their futures and the support of NCPA families, the university, high school partners and the many generous individuals and charitable organizations. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are providing access to education and supporting the success of students in college and beyond.



Moises Padilla, Ph.D.

Director, Nebraska College Preparatory Academy



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Two NCPA seniors were valedictorians (Alex of Winnebago and Joselyn of Omaha South), and two others (Rosaly and Alejandro) were honored as Gates Scholars; only 750 students out of 51,000 applicants were selected.

3.56

NCPA high school scholars across all levels averaged a 3.56 cumulative GPA. Scholars are expected to earn a 3.25 and take at least one honors and/or AP course each semester.

100%

100% of NCPA high school seniors plan to enroll at a university or community college (24 points higher than the state's average).

2023 RECOGNITION RECEPTION AWARD WINNERS

Each school year culminates with a recognition reception, which brings together scholars, their families and educators to highlight and celebrate the year's accomplishments. The receptions include a Senior Showcase, where graduating seniors present their capstone research project. All NCPA scholars must complete a capstone project for their senior year to complete the NCPA high school required component. This year's topics included electromagnetic waves and their applications to physics in the medical field, the teen pregnancy effects on teen mental health, the effects of light pollution on the human body and the language barriers of Guatemalan immigrants in education, to name a few.

Younger NCPA scholars, as well as high school and middle school teachers, are also recognized for their hard work and contributions. We are pleased to recognize the 2023 award winners!



WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL

- Freshman Recognition Award: **Lula DeCora**
- Sophomore Recognition Award: **Avani Wilkie-Zephier**
- Junior Recognition Award: **Devin Houghton**
- Senior Recognition Award: **Alex George**
- Pillar of Excellence Award: **Dyami Berridge**
- High School Educator of the Year: **Jami Pixler**

GRAND ISLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Freshman Recognition Award: **Alijhandra Kirshbaum**
- Sophomore Recognition Award: **Briannah Christensen & Ashton Marshall**
- Junior Recognition Award: **Magda Kori**
- Pillar of Excellence Award: **MacKenzie Skarka**
- Middle School Educator of the Year: **Katelyn Weseman & Faviola Seiler**
- High School Educator of the Year: **Judy Lorenzen**

OMAHA NORTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL

- Freshman Recognition Award: **Micaiah-Anna McTizic Henderson**
- Sophomore Recognition Award: **LaVelle Henderson**
- Junior Recognition Award: **Legacy Durham**
- Senior Recognition Award: **Patrick Wright**
- Pillar of Excellence Award: **Samara Luther**
- NCPA Mentor Award: **Mia Kennedy & Shauntee Mims**
- Middle School Educator of the Year: **Karina Loder**
- High School Educator of the Year: **Bridget Murphy**

OMAHA SOUTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL

- Freshman Recognition Award: **Regina Sotelo-Flores**
- Sophomore Recognition Award: **Kevin Sanchez Reyes**
- Junior Recognition Award: **Itzel Davila Flores**
- Senior Recognition Award: **Julia Perez & Julissa Valencia-Chavez**
- Pillar of Excellence Award: **Alex Marquez Dena & Emily Sierra Ramirez**
- NCPA Mentor Award: **Mona Miller**
- Middle School Educator of the Year: **Matthew Roen**
- High School Educator of the Year: **Cesar Castellanos**



ORVIN RUBIO HERNANDEZ | GRAND ISLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2025

From a young age, Orvin Rubio Hernandez understood that money wasn't a luxury. Through NCPA support, Orvin now sees a possibility for him to be the first in his family to graduate from college.

"Nobody in my family has ever received a degree or been to college, and I hope to be a first-generation college student. I have known that I wanted to get higher education since middle school. At first, my parents were unsure if they could provide me with a college education because of the cost. Now, NCPA has given them more confidence in helping me achieve my education goals."

He has a couple more years of high school left, but Orvin has already set his eyes on majoring in psychology, where he'll have a chance to help others.

"My goals are to get a bachelor's or a master's degree in psychology and hopefully, operate my own counseling clinic someday. I am interested in being a counselor to help people understand their emotions and how they think. Psychology is simply a fascinating area of study because it helps me understand how we think, act and feel."

As a scholar, he continues to learn from his peers and staff at NCPA on how to build discipline to achieve his goals.

"One of the ways that NCPA has changed my life is by giving me motivation and inspiring me to try my best. Having the grade requirement sets me up to be ready. I keep my goals for all classes in mind, and I think that having NCPA by my side helps me develop good work ethic and study skills."

Orvin applies the NCPA Pillars of Excellence—Knowledge, Character and Commitment—in his everyday life.

"The Pillars of Excellence have become a subconscious part of my life. Before I make any decision, I think about them. I find it better to have structure around me and how my decisions can guide me toward a better path. NCPA has taught me about the importance of accountability and independence and that we are accountable for our grades and actions."



LEGACY DURHAM | OMAHA NORTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

Making the world a better place is something Legacy Durham strives to accomplish. Through the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA), she's a step closer to her goal of becoming a world citizen—home and abroad.

"NCPA has changed my life—it shows me that there are so many opportunities to further my education. I plan to major in international relations and biology, minor in some foreign languages and hopefully go to law school. I want to help people domestically and abroad. My future goals are to become a diplomat or work in immigration law. NCPA has changed my life—it shows me that there are so many opportunities to further my education."

Legacy is committed to learning French, Spanish and Russian while working on her college application.

"NCPA has taught me how to be committed to anything during the good and bad times. Throughout all the times I struggled in school, my commitment kept me going."

With NCPA support and resources, Legacy is determined to achieve.

"Applying to college was overwhelming. I was scared about my future and what classes I should take. But, having an NCPA academic advisor made everything a lot easier. Eventually, I was able to find a mentor, and that's all because of the care and compassion of the staff."

For Legacy, NCPA is more than an academy—it's a community that molds her character.

"NCPA has built my character. It's important to build more meaningful connections with others and be the kindest person you can be. NCPA gives me a community to rely on when I needed it the most. I wouldn't be the same without NCPA, so I don't take any opportunities for granted."

BECOMING FUTURE READY



SAMUEL CORONADO | OMAHA SOUTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

With high school coming to an end next year, Samuel Coronado wants to experience the many learning opportunities Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA) provides so that he can pursue his career interests in sports

“NCPA has provided me with the resources to build my future based on my interests. They brought in recruiters from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln to tell us about the areas of study we can major in college. Since I play football and do wrestling for my high school and soccer and basketball outside of school, I am considering majoring in sports and mass communications.”

NCPA gives Samuel a chance to make friends and a sense of belonging.

“An experience that I appreciate the most was the NCPA Summer Camp. I love this experience because it was fun and educational. We got to stay in a dorm with friends, do fun activities and make good memories. It was also

educational because we got to learn about different college majors and experience what college life would be like. I’m thankful to NCPA for giving us this opportunity and resources for us to thrive.”

Though the future may be uncertain, Sam looks forward to attending college and making a difference.

“What I’ve learned from being in NCPA is that we decide what we want to do with our lives. Although nothing is fully promised yet, the scholarship we receive from NCPA is an opportunity. NCPA guides us to explore what interests us and helps us make decisions for our future. We get to experience what life on campus is like, shadow real students and experience majors we may like. Now while this is a big opportunity, it’s all up to us to make the best of it”

CARING FOR COMMUNITY



MELODINE EARTH | WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2024

Melodine Earth—who likes to be called Mel by her friends or Hu gi wi mani winga by a few important family members—wants to go to college and become a medical practitioner

“I am thinking of majoring in nursing, podiatry or anything in the medical field because I want to help people get well. After I finish college, I want to travel to different places. Eventually, I want to return to Winnebago to become a wound care nurse. I want to be able to support the people in my tribe who don’t get much support.”

The aspiration to work as a wound care nurse started when she witnessed her grandmother’s injury.

“When I was about nine years old, I watched my grandmother struggling to heal from wounds. My grandmother and I came to her regular wound care appointment, which was at 8 o’clock at night. We waited for the doctor to come in. An hour had passed by, but there was no one. I checked her temperature and pressure and wrote it down on a napkin. Then, I saw the doctor at the front, and they were just sitting there on their computer,

so I decided to grab my grandmother’s supplies and do the wound care to help my grandmother. It all just clicked from there.”

Growing up in a big household outside of Winnebago with her cho-ka (grandpa) and grandma, Melodine wants to make her family proud. She’s grateful for NCPA for alleviating some financial burdens on her family.

“NCPA has supported my family and me by paying for my college tuition. My family and I struggled financially for a while after the passing of my cho-ka. NCPA will financially support my family and me.”

The resources of NCPA have built more confidence in Melodine to attain her goals.

“NCPA has helped me overcome my shyness and how to become mentally strong for myself. The Pillars of Excellence—Knowledge, Character and Commitment—have become a part of my life. NCPA has shaped me into the person I am today.”

FIRST-GEN STUDENT STRIVES FOR SUCCESS



Though no one in his family has graduated from college, Dywan Williams, a sophomore accounting major at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), was determined to succeed in college through the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA).

NCPA prepares academically talented first-generation, income-eligible students from four Nebraska high schools — Omaha North, Omaha South High School, Grand Island Senior High School and Winnebago High School — for college and their future careers. Through the academy, students receive financial assistance, mentoring and support beginning in their freshman year in high school and continuing through their time at the university.

However, the journey to college was harder than he expected. During his freshman year at North, he was at risk of being disqualified from the program because his GPA didn't meet the required threshold.

He studied hard and graduated from North with a 3.5 grade point average. He recalled the encouragement of NCPA staff.

"They said, 'Dywan, you can do this. You got this.' And I did it," Williams said.

Now the 19-year-old has a 3.82 GPA at Nebraska and has lined up an internship for next summer at Ernst & Young (EY) in Minneapolis, where he will shadow accountants

at the firm and learn about public accounting work. If that goes well, he will move on to a second internship the following summer, where he can engage with clients and gain real-life experience. He said he hopes to receive a job offer in auditing after graduation.

Kurtis Krentz of Minneapolis, a senior partner at EY, connected Williams to EY's internship program. As a supporter of the program, Krentz views NCPA as serving a critical role in supporting students who may not otherwise have been able to pursue a college degree.

"When I met Dywan, it didn't take long for me to see Dywan's potential. He is doing terrific in school and is so driven to better himself and his future," said Krentz, who graduated from UNL with an accounting degree in 1989. "Understanding his story, you can't help but be impressed by how he's changing the course of his life."

Williams, who was raised by a single mother, expressed gratitude to the mentors and donors like Krentz, who are making an impact on students who are ready to change the trajectory of their lives through education.

"Thank you, thank you so much," he said. "It helps me realize there are people who want to help people like me have a better life. We're not alone."

NCPA ADDRESSES NETWORK GAP



Through public and private partnerships, the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy strives to eliminate educational barriers and prepare scholars for their careers by closing what is known as the "network gap."

Students in a network gap are much less likely to have people within their social networks who can provide recommendations or give them substantial advice for advanced education or business startups.

"NCPA is continuing to expand opportunities for students to establish and leverage career networks and enter high-income-generating fields," NCPA Director Moi Padilla said.

To close the gap, NCPA, for the first time, allowed scholars to get a behind-the-scenes look at internship opportunities at Hudl, a global tech company based in Lincoln, Nebraska that provides software tools and web-based video analysis to 20,000+ clients. Some of their clients have ranged from National Football League (NFL), National Basketball Association (NBA), Division I college football teams and nationwide high school football teams.

Nearly 40 first-year NCPA college scholars met with the company's chief operating officer, recruiters and former students to learn about the process and benefits of internships, toured Hudl's quarters and participated in networking activities.

NCPA scholar Leopoldo Hernandez, a sophomore computer science major, said he enjoyed listening to Hudl's history, the tour and talking to employees. Hernandez, who graduated from Omaha South Magnet School, is interested in an internship at Hudl and was able to connect with a recruiter. After graduation, he said, he'd like to work for a large tech company, and the trip led him a step closer to his goal.

NCPA plans to continue to visit businesses and connect current scholars with Nebraska alumni. Eighty NCPA scholars from four high schools attended the program's 2022 end-of-year trip to the Twin Cities, where students visited a Big Four accounting firm and participated in an alumni networking dinner.

The scholars also connected with more than 18 businesses and non-profit organizations, like the Greater Omaha Chamber's Commitment to Opportunity, Diversity and Equity (CODE) team, to learn about other internship opportunities and careers.

"College attainment by itself is not enough to close the considerable racial and socioeconomic wealth gaps that continue to disadvantage students from underrepresented groups," Padilla said.

"By connecting NCPA scholars to alumni and business professionals, we ensure students have access to early career placement and entry into high-income-generating fields."

NCPA MENTOR PROGRAM BUILDS LEADERSHIP, FRIENDSHIP



The Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA) Mentor Program strives to support scholars in building a community network and their futures.

NCPA mentors, who are current University of Nebraska–Lincoln undergraduate students, undergo an interview process to be selected based on their previous academic experience, interest in working with people from diverse backgrounds and ability to connect with others.

Through the program, mentors attend ongoing leadership training to enhance their leadership and effective communication skills.

In August 2022, 80 NCPA high school scholars attended NCPA End-of-Year Trip to the Twin Cities, Minnesota. The trip was NCPA's tenth trip of its kind and the first one since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tradition started in 2011 when scholars and staff visited Kansas City, Missouri, and it's continued to provide a hands-on learning opportunity to NCPA scholars that only traveling can. Along with visiting business and cultural sites, scholars met with alumni in the Twin Cities area to learn different professional journeys.

The NCPA Mentor program also allows high scholars to experience college life. Each year during Junior Shadow Day, NCPA high school scholars visit their mentors on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's campus, where they attend classes with their mentors, eat in university dining halls and explore various study spots on campus.

Additional NCPA Mentor Program opportunities include community-building outings for scholars to visit Vala's Pumpkin Patch, TreeRush Adventure Center and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.



NCPA CELEBRATES 150 GRADUATES FROM NEBRASKA



The Class of 2023 joined the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy's strong alumni network and helped NCPA achieve the milestone of 150 college graduates to date from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Among the 3,664 graduates in the Spring of 2023, 19 NCPA scholars walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. The same scholars began their NCPA journey as eighth grade students attending NCPA summer camp at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. They visited the university's various colleges, explored career paths and met their future peers and mentors.

"As a cohort, this group of scholars exemplified extremely well how to uphold NCPA's Pillars of Excellence—Knowledge, Character and commitment," Director of NCPA Moi Padilla said. "This achievement belongs to them and their families, and we are grateful for being a part of their journey."

To celebrate this important moment in program history, NCPA hosted a special event that brought together the graduates, families, NCPA alumni, university supporters and university dignitaries.

Each graduating scholar was recognized, and Chancellor Green congratulated scholars for their educational success, commitment to the community and dedication to pay it forward.

Among the scholars he congratulated was Viangri Sontay Lopez, a May 2023 graduate who received the Pillar of Excellence Award for exemplary leadership and mentorship to younger NCPA scholars starting their college journey.

The Class of 2023 and past NCPA alumni have demonstrated that with the right academic and social support, success is achievable no matter the circumstances.





The Trenchard Foundation Institute of Excellence (TFIOE), the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy’s college retention and success program, gave Marcus McCaskill an opportunity to pursue his dream of becoming a veterinarian.

“I am double majoring in veterinary biomedical sciences and fisheries and wildlife. I aspire to become a veterinarian, or “Zoo Veterinarian,” where I can work and care for animals. I’d like to work somewhere outside of the United States, and down the road, I want to establish my wildlife conservatory. Attending college is a stepping stone to my ultimate goals.

Growing up in a single-parent household, Marcus thought college education was out of reach. The financial support of NCPA gave Marcus a chance to be the first in his family to graduate college.

“Growing up, my mom had to work two jobs for my siblings and me. My family had struggled with getting food on the table, so the thought of my mother paying for a big portion of my college fees was far out the window. NCPA took a massive weight off my family’s shoulders since my mother still had to take care of my two siblings on her own. With NCPA’s support, my family now feels at ease. I can also help my siblings with their college finances since I won’t have

to worry about paying for mine. I want to set a standard for my siblings and show them that anything is possible.”

The support and resources of NCPA motivate Marcus to look forward to a better future and seize all learning opportunities to build his resume.

“Currently, I am an executive member of the Veterinary Pathology Club at the university. I’m also a New Student Enrollment Orientation Leader, where I welcome incoming college students. I was also a teaching assistant and had the opportunity to work at the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center as a student researcher.

Throughout his college journey, Marcus is thankful for the support he receives in the program.

“If someone told me in 8th grade that I could attend college and have a chance to make long-lasting friendships, community, and career resources, I’d tell them to stop dreaming. However, I would be wrong—I am now chasing my dreams, thanks largely to NCPA. My participation in NCPA gives me more reasons to want and do more with my life.”

SUCCESS ON CAMPUS

AWARDS & NOTABLE SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Oswaldo Palma Vargas** (Grand Island) graduated as a Chancellor’s Scholar. He was one of 94 students in the UNL graduating class 2023 who completed their undergraduate degree with a 4.0 GPA. Oswaldo also received the Student Luminary Award and the Outstanding Senior Award from the Department of Sociology and met Honors Program requirements.
- **Karen Rodriguez** (Omaha South) and **Mona Miller** (Omaha North) are two of seven selected students for the McNair Scholars Program. As McNair scholars, Mona and Karen work alongside faculty and peers to complete a summer research experience on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus while acquiring the knowledge and skills to pursue a Ph.D. program successfully.
- **Nayla Torres** (Grand Island) was invited to attend the special meeting with the U.S. Undersecretary of Education, James Kvaal, during his visit to Nebraska. Secretary Kvaal heralded NCPA as a signature program that makes attending college accessible. Nayla is a University Honors student aspiring to become an anthropology college professor.
- **Phoenixx Lowman-Carroll** (Grand Island) was selected for the Jacht Ad Agency’s spring crew. Jacht, a student-run agency offered through the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, allows students to gain real-world experience by working with various companies on brand strategy, public relations, multimedia, design and more.
- **Brenda Heracleo-Flores** (Omaha North) was invited to participate in the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Equity Roundtables. The forum gathered students and administrators from various campuses to foster conversations to enhance educational equity for at-promise students (low-income, first-generation, and students of color).
- **Mainor Ramirez** (Grand Island) and **Marcus McCaskill** (Omaha North) were selected as New Student Enrollment Orientation Leaders. Mainor and Marcus, alongside 30 orientation leaders, welcome and guide new students to the Nebraska campus.



- **Daelyn Zagurski** (Winnebago), pictured above, received the 2023 Leo Yankton Award for Indigenous Justice. The award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to Indigenous justice in the spirit of Leo Yankton’s Native activism. Daelyn also received the Promising Undergraduate Leader Award for the 2022-23 academic year from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- **Dywan Williams** (Omaha North), a junior at Nebraska, is completing an internship at Ernst & Young in downtown Minneapolis. In addition to excelling academically, Dywan is an active member of the Global Leadership Group, a non-profit working to restore North 24th Street to a place where strong families live, businesses thrive, and beautiful neighborhoods grow.

INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)	TRIO Scholars	NCPA Peer Leader and Mentor Programs
Mexican American Student Association (MASA)	Circle K	LGBTQA+ Student Organization
New Student Enrollment Orientation Leaders	Teachers Scholars Academy	Afrikan People’s Union (APU)
All-Collegiate Choir	Intramural Sports	Minority Pre-Health Association
University Honors Program	Education Abroad	McNair Scholars Program
Combs Honors Scholars	The University of Nebraska Inter-Tribal Exchange (UNITE)	Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience at Nebraska (UCARE)
First-Gen Nebraska	Multicultural Greek Council	Future Teachers of Color
	University Learning Communities	American Institute of Architects
	Outdoor Adventure and Challenge Course	

BLAZING A NEW TRAIL



JEAN PARKER MORRIS | WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNA
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN, CLASS OF 2023

When Jean Parker-Morris first stepped on Nebraska’s campus, she felt special. As the first in her family to graduate college, she’s made her family proud.

“From growing up in a small town where you know everyone to going to a big school where you don’t know anyone was a little scary. But everyone here was so friendly. I just took it one day at a time. Through the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA), I met some wonderful scholars over the years, and the staff has been the most helpful in my journey. I would’ve been clueless and stressed without them. Now, I have my degree, and every second of the journey has been worth it.”

Choosing what to study in college was at first overwhelming for Jean, but her passion for helping others guided her to the finish line.

“I want to help people in whatever form that may be. I’m open to a lot of things for my career. But helping others is my biggest goal. For my personal life, I always try to do my best to take care of those I love.”

One of her favorite parts of college is the community she builds through the academy.

“My favorite part of NCPA has to be the people. They’ve helped me overcome many challenges with my mental health, which is a challenge that a lot of college students go through. They’ve shown me the resources on campus to help me get better. The NCPA community, from staff to fellow scholars, motivated me to succeed in school. Because of their support, I didn’t feel as alone.”

As she steps into her next chapter, she will apply the lessons she’s learned from NCPA’s Pillar of Excellence—Knowledge, Character and Commitment.

“The Pillars of Excellence have played a part in my life when I was in college and now as a college graduate. I see the value in education more than ever. It helps me open my mind to new possibilities. Being good to others is also very important, even if I can’t control how everyone will perceive me. Commitment is the most important for me because I’ve learned how to stay committed to myself, my well-being and my family.”

NEBRASKA GRADUATES

- Abigail Javier-Paxtle, Child, Youth and Family Studies, minor in Sociology
- Allison Marie Wood, Elementary Education and Special Education (K-6)
- Brenda Heracleo-Flores, Psychology and Spanish, minor in English
- Carolina Thompson, English Language Arts, minor in Theatre Arts
- Clarice Santos, Economics and Sociology, minors in English, Psychology and Art History & Criticism
- Daelyn Zagurski, Fisheries and Wildlife, Conservation Biology and Zoo Animal Care
- Esmeralda Ramirez-Crispin, Nutrition and Health Sciences, minor in Psychology
- Gabby Escalante Manzano, Nutrition and Health Sciences, Community Health and Wellness
- Gladys Martinez Cruz, Child, Youth and Family Studies, minors in Education Studies and Spanish
- Hope Jensen, Child, Youth and Family Studies
- Idaly Lucas, Child, Youth and Family Studies, minors in Psychology and Sociology
- Jean Parker-Morris, Child, Youth and Family Studies, minors in Psychology, Educational Psychology and Communication Studies
- Kya Pass, Sociology and Ethnic Studies
- Marial Valdez, Advertising and Public Relations
- Nadia Spurlock, Criminology and Criminal Justice, minor in Ethnic Studies
- Natalie Hausman, Forensic Science
- Osvaldo Palma Vargas, Sociology, minors in Education Studies
- Phoenixx Lowman-Carroll, Broadcasting, minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Samuel Farmer, Psychology
- Viangri Sontay Lopez, Child, Youth and Family Studies, minors in Education Studies, Psychology, Art, and Racial Justice, Equity & Inclusion



90%

NCPA college scholars average a 90% freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and have better graduation rates than other university students.

83

83 scholars achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher; 20 earned a 4.0 GPA.

150

NCPA has had a total of 150 college graduates to date.

ncpa



UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



METROPOLITAN
Community College