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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA–LINCOLN
Amber Williams, Ed.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Services & Enrollment Management
Raymond Ramirez, Director of Operations

GRAND ISLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
2124 N Lafayette Ave,
Grand Island, NE 68803
Principal: Jeff Gilbertson

OMAHA NORTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL
4410 N. 36TH Street
Omaha, NE 68111
Principal: Gene Hayes

OMAHA SOUTH HIGH MAGNET SCHOOL
4519 S. 24th Street
Omaha, NE 68107
Principal: Ruben Cano

WINNEBAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL
202 Osborne Street
Winnebago, NE 68071
Superintendent: Dan Fehringer
Assistant Superintendent: Cheryl Burrell

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP
Dr. Cynthia Gooch-Grayson, MCC Associate Vice President
FOREWARD

Since 2006, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln has provided counselors, teachers and other staff the opportunity to work with talented low-income first-generation students at Grand Island Public High School and, since 2008, Omaha North High Magnet School. In 2017, we expanded to Omaha South Magnet School and added Winnebago Public School as an affiliate school.

Coinciding with the expansions into two schools in 2017, the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy announced its partnership with The Trenchard Foundation which will assist with covering the cost of college at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, including tuition, books, room and board, and fees for students who complete the NCPA high school requirements. This gift is unique because it’s not just about the scholarships, it’s about the relationships we will have and will hope to gain with the Trenchard family.

In recognition of this generous contribution, the retention program for NCPA college scholars at the university has been named The Trenchard Foundation Institute of Excellence and includes a weekly academic seminar, individual meetings, academic tutoring, workshops and more. I invite you to read more about the partnership on pages 12-13 of this report.

We’re also proud of the fact that every single graduate of the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy during the past six years has gone on to college. More so, our scholars have better college graduation rates than other university students. The NCPA scholars at Nebraska have excelled above and beyond the program goals set before them, from being accepted into honors programs and studying abroad to serving in leadership positions and being actively involved in student organizations.

As NCPA continues to grow in the number of scholars we’re able to serve and in the ways we’re able to serve them, we look forward to sharing their success in next year’s report.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy.

AMBER WILLIAMS, ED.D.
Director, Nebraska College Preparatory Academy
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Services & Enrollment Management
Each year, the 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 at Omaha North and Grand Island include a Senior Showcase, where graduating seniors present their capstone research project. All NCPA scholars must complete a capstone project their senior year to successfully complete the NCPA high school component. The scholars showcase their projects, which paves the way for their next step of collegiate thinking and research. This year’s research topics included cultural and gender issues, literature, history, science and health. Omaha South scholars will complete the capstone component beginning in 2020.

In addition, younger NCPA scholars, as well as high school and middle school teachers are recognized for their hard work and contributions. We are pleased to recognize the 2018 award winners.

**Grand Island Senior High School**
- Freshmen Award: Mainor Ramirez Tercero
- Sophomore Award: Ashley Parra Valencia
- Junior Award: Hope Jensen
- Pillar of Excellence Award (Senior): David Estrada
- Middle School Educator of the Year: Les Westover, Walnut Middle School
- High School Educator of the Year: Laura McQuinn
- Peer Mentor Award: Christopher Nguyen

**Omaha North High Magnet School**
- Freshman Award: Zhenntifer Wheeler
- Sophomore Award: Mia Kennedy
- Junior Award: Isaiah Tolbert
- Pillar of Excellence Award (Senior): Carlie Carlisle
- Middle School Educator of the Year: Allison Temple, Alfonza Davis Middle School
- High School Educator of the Year: Eryn Surprenant

**Omaha South High Magnet School**
- Scholar Award: Yeimi Aguirre-Aranda
- Scholar Award: Mia Garcia-Amador
- Scholar Award: Ericka Silva-Lopez
- Scholar Award: Jocelyn Vazquez
- Scholar Award: Jerry Brito-Mendoza
- Scholar Award: Bryan Gomez
- Certificate of Appreciation: Ruben Cano, Omaha South High School Principal
- Certificate of Appreciation: Maureen Gregor
- Middle School Educator of the Year: Eric Smith, Norris Middle School
- High School Educator of the Year: John Tripp

- 69 NCPA high school scholars have a 4.0 or higher cumulative GPA.
- Average GPA for NCPA high school scholars was 3.87
- NCPA staff spent 18,970 minutes in individual meetings with NCPA high school scholars
NCPA scholars fulfill many academic and social requirements for the program. However, NCPA doesn’t just have an effect on the scholars—the benefits of what the scholars are experiencing and learning reach their families, too.

Vanessa Mosqueda is a junior at Grand Island Senior High School, and the oldest of five siblings. Her parents have been very supportive and interested in the topics she learns about through NCPA, such as peer pressure, relationships and managing stress. “They like I am becoming informed because there was only so much that they learned since they only finished the 6th grade,” she explained. “My family also loves the fact that once I graduate I will get help with college.”

Her parents work hard; her father at a meatpacking plant and her mother does janitorial work—and the work is hard on their bodies. She says they want her to go further in life.

Vanessa is considering a career in the medical field or law. “I really like little kids and when I see my pediatrician working, she inspires me and makes me want to be like her one day.”

Her family also says she is good at getting into discussions, bringing up topics and convincing the other person of her point, so she thinks about becoming a lawyer.

For now, she concentrates on high school. In addition to NCPA, she plays the violin in the orchestra and has a passion for art. She credits the NCPA seminars about self-care with helping her manage her activities.

“School is very hard but I learn that I shouldn’t stress as hard as I do because that can trigger more problems. If I just take care of myself, things will turn out ok.”

It’s not all work and stress, though. In NCPA, she enjoys getting to know more people, sharing experiences and the events. “There’s a lot of benefits to it. You get help and support. Everyone’s so nice. You get to meet new people and new experiences. And at the end you get that scholarship. I also love the summer camps; they’re very fun.”
When Logan Hudnall was in third grade, he remembers doing a fun experiment with batteries and wires. That experience started his interest in robotics and engineering, which he followed up in fourth grade with winning first place in a robotics contest. He took technology classes and kept studying robotics throughout junior high.

Because of his dedication and hard work, he entered his first year of high school at Omaha North having earned a spot in not one but two prestigious programs—the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy and North’s engineering pathway through Project Lead the Way—both of which combine rigorous college preparatory courses and instruction to develop the skills and discipline needed to be successful in college.

Logan takes hands-on classes such as Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, and Computer Integrated Manufacturing.

Yet his interests go beyond science. He’s a member of the French club, through which he has enjoyed helping to build the club’s homecoming float and going to a French restaurant to practice the language. He’s also a member of the gaming club in addition to being an NCPA scholar.

He appreciates the connections he’s made in NCPA. He’s built better relationships with the peers he met in middle school and has learned from the experiences of the college scholars he’s met through the program.

Logan also appreciates the structure NCPA added to his high school experience, which he says helped him maintain a level of accountability, so he was sure to do his best and not just get by.

NCPA has been a positive experience for his family, too, which includes his parents, an older sibling and two younger siblings. His parents both have two-year degrees. NCPA has given him the opportunity to be the first in his family to get a four-year degree and help support his family.

His goals for the future are to graduate from college with a degree in electrical engineering and go to work for HDR or OPPD. When he retires, he looks forward to helping people with their electronics and taking up cooking.

As he finishes up his senior year at North, he would advise students thinking about applying to NCPA to pay attention to the details, take their time on the essay and ask for help if they need it. “Just relax and do your best.”

Making Connections
Logan Hudnall | Omaha North High Magnet School, Class of 2019
A YEAR OF GROWTH

Mia Garcia-Amador, Jocelyn Vazquez, Brandon Monarrez Granillo, Jerry Brito-Mendoza
Omaha South Magnet School | Class of 2021

With the inaugural cohort from Omaha South heading into their second year of NCPA, four of the scholars reflect on their first year and look forward to their goals.

Mia Carolina Garcia-Amador
“One of the best ways NCPA has changed my life is by helping me make connections with many people who have invested so much with and in me. It has reminded me of why I have to reach for my dreams and keep trying. It has been the best support system I could ask for. It’s taught me it’s not just about academics but about taking time to nurture your emotional and mental growth. Mia has always considered the medical field. She appreciates how NCPA will ease the cost of college for her parents.

Jocelyn Vazquez
“NCPA has helped me grow as a person, be a leader, help other people, manage my time better and to take care of myself. I’ve learned that everyone is going through their own battles and the more support that we give each other, the faster we will be able to stand up and overcome these difficult things.”

Jocelyn’s goals are to be in top 1% of her class and pursue a career in criminal justice or the medical field.

Brandon Monarrez Granillo
“My parents were proud when the acceptance letter came in the mail. When they told me, I knew it was a chance to do what I want in life. I’m interested in architecture but also technology, business and marketing. That’s why this program is here, it helps us decide what we want to do. It has changed the way I see things now. I’m ready to take risks for the best of my future.”

Jerry Brito-Mendoza
I used to be shy and have a difficult time speaking out loud. NCPA has changed my life by making me speak up more and be more positive. I’ve been more open and I speak to others more. I also used to be a pessimistic person, but lately I’ve smiled and laughed more than I ever have. My family is proud of me for being prepared for the future. They always want what’s best for me, and with NCPA, they know I’m always doing my best.

Jerry wants to major in psychology and is considering being a psychologist or counselor.
Sam Farmer may come from a small town but he has big thoughts and big dreams—and the senior at Winnebago High School is well on his way to achieving them. “I’m always able to motivate myself to do anything,” he said.

As a junior, he had the highest GPA in the school and earned the highest ACT in school history, beating the previous record by two points. He’s on the Quiz Bowl team which achieved the highest finish in school history. He’s played the lead roles in the last two school drama productions. He mentors and tutors his fellow classmates. He’s on Winnebago’s robotics team, which was started last last year and is still building up to being competitive.

“There isn’t much in the way of physics and engineering activities I can participate in around the place I live though, so I spend a lot of time reading articles and studies done by current physicists who are working on unifying different theories within the fields of physics, chemistry and astronomy. Along with that I enjoy following major technology-based companies like Tesla, SpaceX, DeepMind and Boston Dynamics to see what their plans are to change the world.”

“I enjoy learning in general and specifically learning about what people are doing to change society right now and plan for a future in the universe for the human race.”

“I want to say that I would like go into some type of engineering or astrophysics major, but ultimately I feel the need to get into politics to play as an advocate for science and technology and people who can stop things like climate change and constant turmoil between countries over energy food and other resources and even social differences, which means I likely need to get a pre-law or business major.”

Sam is in the first cohort of Winnebago NCPA scholars that will begin at the university in the Fall of 2019. Since he already knows his way around Nebraska’s campus thanks to the NCPA camps and activities he’s attended there, he’s glad he knows what to expect and looks forward to college."
Beginning in 2018, the Trenchard Foundation has partnered with the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy to cover the cost of college at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, including tuition, books, room and board, and fees for students who complete the NCPA high school requirements.

“Our desire is to help kids who are bright and want to go to college but can’t afford to,” said Bob Trenchard, an El Paso-based attorney. Trenchard, who grew up in Holdrege, Neb., and his current wife, Norma Chaparro Trenchard, said they have been impressed by the academy’s comprehensive approach of starting in high school to teach outstanding first-generation and low-income students the skills they will need to thrive in college and beyond.

In recognition of this generous contribution, the retention program for NCPA college scholars at the university has been named The Trenchard Foundation Institute of Excellence.

The retention program includes a weekly academic seminar, individual meetings, academic tutoring, workshops and more. The program pushes students to achieve their academic and personal goals by giving them access to programming to meet academic and social needs, as well as leadership experiences.
Nebraska’s partnership with the Trenchard Foundation provides first-generation and low-income Nebraska students with the financial assistance to attain the dream of a college education. Students will enter their professional careers with a strong community of support and without the added burden of debt thanks to this generous donation.

“This gift is unique because it’s not just about the scholarships, it’s about the relationships we will have and will hope to gain with the Trenchard family,” said academy founder Amber Williams, assistant vice chancellor for academic services and enrollment management. We would like to express our gratitude for this generous contribution to Bob Trenchard, Norma Chaparro Trenchard, Jill Trenchard and all members of The Trenchard Foundation Board of Directors.

Our desire is to help kids who are bright and want to go to college, but can’t afford to.

ABOUT THE TRENCHARD FOUNDATION

In 2004, Nebraska alumnus Bob Trenchard established The Barbara Trenchard Foundation in memory of his late wife, Barbara. Barbara was always full of life, actively involved in community and church activities as well as being a loving wife, devoted mother and best friend of many. She had a goal of starting a scholarship fund. Before partnering with NCPA, the foundation awarded 32 scholarships to outstanding students who have needed financial assistance to attend college.

In 2016, the name was changed to The Trenchard Foundation to honor Barbara’s son, Trey Trenchard, and his brother, Todd Trenchard. In 2018, The Trenchard Foundation was gifted to the NCPA through the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Please visit ncpa.unl.edu/college-scholars to learn more about the Trenchard Foundation Institute of Excellence.
Support and understanding might not be the first ideas that come to mind when talking about preparing for college, but they play a crucial part in a scholar’s success. Factors stemming from in and outside of the classroom can have a stressful and adverse effect on scholars. Fortunately, high school scholars have several support systems and positive role models to rely on.

While NCPA staff members meet regularly with scholars to discuss school and for wellness checks, scholars appreciate having someone other than staff, teachers or parents to talk to. NCPA’s Mentor Program connects scholars and peers to further bolster their support network and enhance the social aspect of NCPA.

Mia, a 9th grade scholar at Omaha South, stated it perfectly. “One of the most important things being part of NCPA has taught me is probably that high school support systems like these aren’t just about academics but about taking time to nurture your emotional and mental growth as well and that we become a tight-knit group.”

“I like [the mentor program] because it provides a person who can give you advice whenever you need advice. They are there for you,” said another mentee.

Yet another mentee said, “I love the NCPA Mentor Program! It gives me a chance to see older students who are succeeding in college and helps me feel like I can get there too, and also gives me input on college student’s life.”

Mentors are current students at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, who go through a vigorous interview process. Students are selected based on their previous experience, interest in working with underserved populations, and ability to connect with others.

Mentors attend a minimum of three events per semester with their students. These include program-organized events as well as individually planned activities. During the spring 2018 semester, the program-organized events included recreation night, playing bingo at a nursing home, Junior Shadow day, zoo day, and pizza night. Mentors also went to Omaha to see their mentees for individually planned activities. They often went to lunch or dinner, out for ice cream, or to support them in their extracurricular activities. More specifically, mentors planned trips around mentees’ interests, such as visiting Joslyn Art Museum, playing board games at Spielbound Café, going bowling, and one mentor accepted the challenge to eat a chocolate covered cricket.

The mentoring program has been immensely rewarding for both the mentor and mentee, providing many opportunities to learn and share with each other and gain valuable experiences and insight about themselves, as well.
“NCPA Mentor Program not only help guide mentees to successful paths but also gives the mentors a reason to stay on those paths as their mentee’s role model,” explained one mentor.

Another mentor said, “It has helped me grow as an individual this past year. I have made connections with people I would not have otherwise, and it opened up my eyes and allowed me to see things through other people’s eyes and how they might view situations.”

As more NCPA scholars attend college at Nebraska, more are joining the mentor program.

“I like that I get to give back to a program that gave me so much and to be able to relate to kids who have been in a similar situation as myself,” said a mentor and current Trenchard Foundation Institute of Excellence (TFIOE) scholar.

During the Spring 2018 semester, 46 percent of NCPA mentors were current TFIOE scholars and 73 percent of mentors identified as first-generation and/or minority students. In Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, mentors recorded spending 75,259 minutes with their mentees.”
Self-described as always being really driven, Bakou arrived in Nebraska from West Africa at age 8 and has worked hard to make her parents’ sacrifices worthwhile. Her academic efforts earned her selection into the Nebraska College preparatory Academy at Omaha North.

“NCPA has taught me a lot about myself and opened my eyes to dreams I did not even know I had,” she said. “I always been interested in human behavior and how we socialize things. When I first came to the university, I thought I wanted a career in psychology working with businesses.” She enrolled in a summer program for that area but realized it was not for her. She shifted to clinical psychology and did an internship working with kids on the autism spectrum. Bakou enjoyed it and learned a lot but it wasn’t quite right for her either.

“I moved into counseling psychology and that’s where I’ve found my fit in the field,” Bakou said. Inspired by research conducted by Dr. Sarah Gervais, a psychology professor at Nebraska who specializes in Women’s Studies, Bakou applied for the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience program or UCARE and earned a scholarship to conduct funded research with Gervais as her advisor.

“Usually, students do a research project that’s similar to what your advisor is working on, but I wanted to do my own thing—and that’s what I did. I worked with Dr. Gervais to study how African-American women and European-American women have been dehumanized in advertisements.”

Now with more than two years of research experience, a degree in psychology, several internships and campus leadership roles filling her resume—she’s applying to several graduate schools. She says it’s a huge relief for her and her family to finish college without thousands of dollars of debt thanks to NCPA.

Her goal is to earn a Ph.D., have a counseling practice and open a nonprofit organization that offers low cost or free therapy and mental health resources to people living in impoverished communities.

“I hate that mental health is seen as a stigma or weakness in many minority groups and hate even more that therapy is seen as a rich person’s luxury. Everyone should have access to mental health resources regardless of their economic or social status and I’m very passionate about creating a space where people who can’t afford therapy still have access to mental health resources. Money shouldn’t determine well-being and we need to live in a world where we care more about others well-being than money. I hope I can one day work toward creating that change.”
SUCCESS ON CAMPUS

In addition to fulfilling their NCPA requirements, scholars at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln are engaged on campus in a variety of ways and excel above and beyond the program goals set before them. From being accepted into honors programs and studying abroad to serving in leadership positions, being actively involved in student organizations, and graduating with distinction, NCPA scholars made their mark on campus during the 2017-18 academic year.

HONORS & AWARDS
- Accepted into Glenn Korff School of Music for Vocal Performance
- Accepted into Johnny Carson School of Theater (3 scholars)
- Charlotte Kramer Foreign Study Scholarship Recipient
- College of Business Honors Academy
- Gilman Study Abroad Scholarship Recipient (4 scholars)
- Graduated with Distinction (3 scholars)
- Graduated with High Distinction
- Named a Chancellor’s Scholar
- Named to Franco’s List for character and integrity (2 scholars)
- Named a Harvard Public Affairs Fellow
- Named McNair Scholars (5 scholars)
- Romulo Soldevilla Award for Production Recipient
- Selected for Cornhusker Marching Band
- Undergraduate Levine Diversity Reward Award Recipient
- University Honors Program (7 scholars)

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS LEADERSHIP ROLES AND INVOLVEMENT
- Ambassador – College of Arts & Sciences
- Ambassador – College of Education & Human Sciences
- ASUN Student Government
- Football Team Member
- NASPA Undergraduate Fellow
- Marching Band Academic Honorary
- Marching Band Section Leader
- New Student Enrollment Leader (3 scholars)
- President – Afrikan Peoples Union
- President – Phi Mu sorority
- President – Selleck Residence Hall Council
- President – Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity (2 scholars)
- President – Sustain UNL
- Residence Hall Assistant
- Technical Director – Theatrix
- Track and Field Team Member
A big, handsome envelope arrived at Alyssia Casillas’ home in Grand Island a decade ago. She was only about 14 at the time, so she was surprised it had her name on it.

With big eyes, she watched her mom open it. (“When you’re a kid,” Alyssia says, “your mom opens your mail.”) She watched her mom jump up and down in their living room with green-painted walls. She heard her mom scream. “You got it! You got it!”

Alyssia was a girl with intelligence and drive. She had good people in her life, like her mom – a single mother who worked hard to raise her three kids. But Alyssia’s lack of confidence had led her to make some bad choices. Friends were getting pregnant. She was hanging with a rough crowd.

So this big envelope in her mom’s hands, Alyssia knew, must contain some big news. She was hanging with a rough crowd. So this big envelope in her mom’s hands, Alyssia knew, must contain some big news.

“My why is because there are so many like me who need me to stand up and tell them that they are not defined by their tragedies, and they will set the world aflame with their capabilities one day, just as I intend to do…

“My why is because I deserve to accomplish my dreams, and my family deserves to see me do so. I will change the world someday…

Alyssia graduated with a sociology degree from Nebraska in May 2015 and is now in her final year in UNMC’s dental hygiene program. She’s passionate about educating people on oral health. Being a dental hygienist, she says, will help her help people.

So why did her mom cry that day a decade ago?

Because that envelope with Alyssia’s name on it had come from NCPA.
Almost 90% of the fall 2014 NCPA college cohort has graduated or is on track to graduate soon.

NCPA graduated 19 students in the 2017-18 academic year from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

NCPA has had a total of 57 college graduates to date.