

## Important Dates/Times . . .

**October 18** ▪ Building Bright Futures and Avenue Scholars Foundation Annual Community Event  
Qwest Center

### Avenue Scholars Center

Tutoring is available for Avenue Scholars beginning at 4 p.m. each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at the Avenue Scholars Center, 71<sup>st</sup> and Mercy Road.

Center Hours: Monday-Friday, 12-8 p.m.  
Phone: 402.932.1339

We have a new name!  
**Avenue Scholars  
Foundation**

## Welcome New Talent Advisors



**Jessica Frank**  
Millard South  
High School



**Cedric Cooper**  
Omaha Benson  
High School



**Emily Christensen**  
Omaha Bryan  
High School



**Jermaine Jones**  
Omaha North  
High School



**Juan Cangas**  
Omaha South  
High School



*Avenue Scholars, **Abraham, Dylan, and Shanice** are three of our college students, and regular visitors at the Avenue Scholars Center.*

## Off to A Great Start 2010-2011

The 2010-2011 year is off to a great start!! Program expansion at both the high school and post-secondary levels has provided Avenue Scholars Foundation the opportunity to serve nearly 500 scholars across the community.

The addition of Omaha South High School, one of our new sites, has been made possible through a collaborative grant with the Omaha Public Schools and the Nebraska Department of Education. The focus of this new program is to provide a Talent Advisor to migrant students who have been jointly identified by the Avenue Scholars program and the Omaha Public Schools. This is an exciting partnership that has great potential. Other new sites at Millard South, Omaha North, and Omaha Bryan are moving forward with great success. All of these schools have welcomed our program and staff in a warm and positive fashion.

Our post-secondary program continues to grow. With approximately 75 students being served by our Talent Advisors, we are pleased to report that our scholars are realizing successful gains in every facet of their personal and college lives. Transportation, housing and general life conditions continue to present challenges and opportunities for our staff.

The Avenues Scholars Foundation is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant of \$102,000 a year for the next two years from the Coordinating Commission for Higher Education. This grant will be used to assist with our program growth.

With our program growth has come the opportunity to add several new staff members. These new staff bring a wide array of backgrounds and experiences, and as a result, our team is stronger than ever and our Avenue Scholars will benefit greatly from the quality staff we have assembled.

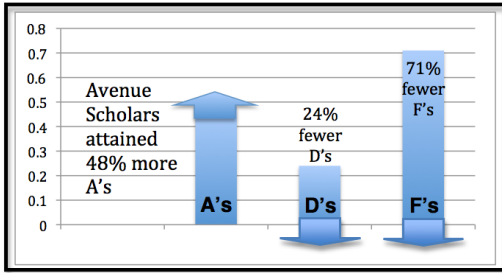
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**Dr. Ken Bird**  
President/CEO

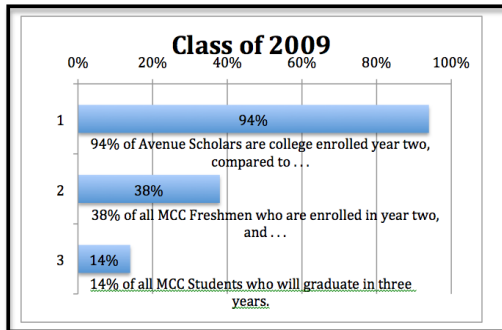
### High School Success

Since Entering the Program in the fall of 2009:



### College Success

Since Entering the Program in the fall of 2009:



### Off to A Great Start (cont'd)

As you may have noticed, I have been using the title of "Avenue Scholars Foundation" in this report. Our Board took action to formally change our name from Bright Futures Foundation to Avenue Scholars Foundation on September 14<sup>th</sup>. This name change will help in creating our identity and relates specifically to our program.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Once again, I thank you for your ongoing support.

### A Look Back and a Look Ahead

The 2009-10 opening year with students brought many successes and some challenges to overcome in year two. Among the successes, high school students improved their grades, seniors moved on to college, and the 2009 cohort moved into college in their second year.

Students were busy throughout the summer, with over 400 attending a variety of activities. They learned more about their strengths with Charles McClendon of Gallup; UNO Science Campers enjoyed 3 days in the study of water with UNO professor Dana Richter-Eggers; Outward Bound ventured into the Nebraska wilderness; and IncluCity campers learned about human relations and leadership. FunPlex and Mahoney activities were for fun and making new friends from high schools across the city.



**Dr. Jef Johnston**  
Chief Operating Officer (COO)

The staff was hard at work completing the 5C's Curriculum, which emphasizes Cognition, College Success, Career Success, Community Building, and Choices. A complete set of lessons around the 5C's was completed and is now in use at all seven high schools.

Seven High School Talent Advisors and two College Talent Advisors serve students at Omaha North, Northwest, Benson, Bryan, South, Ralston, Millard South, Metropolitan Community College, and UNO.

Thanks to our partnership with UNO and the leadership of Dr. Steve Bullock, the first MCC students living on the UNO campus received their MavCards and are experiencing residential life on a college campus.

The 2010 cohort takes a full slate of MCC classes on the UNO campus and at the Avenue Center. Dr. Elliott Ostler, UNO Math professor and MCC adjunct professor, is leading students to Math success. English classes are taught by Talent Facilitator Laura Miller, along with Avenue Scholars Foundation consultant Doug Pierson, Cindy Cronn, and MCC adjunct Elaine Johnson. College Success classes are taught by Giovanni Jones and Dedrick Bell.

There are many challenges for 2010-11. After an initial year of program building, we have much to improve the second time around. Upcoming goals include conducting a program evaluation to examine needed improvements; improving our transition plan from high school to college; developing a financial literacy component in the curriculum; continuing the search for grants and supplemental support; completing data sharing agreements with other agencies; and examining the unique needs of Avenue Scholars, which include transportation, health care, housing, jobs, and funding gaps.

### Avenue Scholars Foundation Board of Directors

Walter Scott, Jr.  
Chairman of the Board

Susie Buffett - Vice Chairman

Michael Yanney – Treasurer

Dick Holland – Director

Barb & Wally Weitz - Directors

Dr. Ken Bird - CEO/President

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