

RIGHT, Joe Cavanaugh, Youth Frontiers CEO, and Friends of Avenue Scholars Foundation award recipient, encourages the new Avenue Scholars to make the most out of their opportunities.



Speaker Myaha Tovar
2015 Millard South Graduate



Speaker Alecia Johnson
2018 Omaha Northwest graduate



Speaker Emmanuel Kate
2017 Omaha Burke graduate



Students, 'Friends' honored at Baxter



Omaha North Principal Gene Haynes surrounds himself with North Scholars and Career Coach Kayla Gillian.

A class of 200 new Avenue Scholars was honored at the 2018 Celebration Luncheon Wednesday, April 25.

Avenue Scholars graduates Alejandro Cardenas, Omaha Bryan, 2011; Myaha Tovar, Millard South, 2015; Alecia Johnson, Omaha Northwest, 2017; and Emmanuel Kate, Omaha Burke, 2017, provided welcoming and introductory remarks.

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Bill Nordin of Surdell and Partners; Mike Alvano, ASF Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer; and Auctioneer Scott Moore, Friends of Avenue Scholars Foundation award recipient



Scott Haag, of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, a Friends of Avenue Scholars Foundation award recipient, and Ken Bird, ASF President/CEO.



Monica Wells, Postsecondary Career Coach, presents a Friends of Avenue Scholars Foundation award to Carly Frost of Metropolitan Community College.

RIGHT, My’Kiah Nelson speaks to Avenue Scholars students and staff about following her college dreams.

BELOW, Selah Taylor and Melissa Bussell introduce and welcome speakers for the 2018 Senior Academy Luncheon.



Senior Scholars in spotlight at luncheon

Senior Academy Scholars were honored at a celebration luncheon Friday, May 11, at the Omaha Stockyards.

My’Kiah Nelson was the main speaker, sharing her college experiences. Mack’Kya Broadway spoke on how the Avenue Scholars Scholarship will give her an opportunity to accomplish her goals.

Emcees Selah Taylor and Melissa Bussell welcomed guests and introduced speakers.

High School Career Coaches Courtland Olson, Jason Boyd, Kayla Gillian, Taleya Broadway, Allison Goff, Ashley Knott and Beth Leach announced Senior Academy graduates and special recognition recipients.

Post-secondary Career Coach Monica Wells provided comments on the career program, and MCC Navigator Amy Rector talked about the support system at Metro Community College.

Taleya Broadway gave closing comments.



ABOVE, Kayla Gillian, Omaha North High School Career Coach, proudly displays a bouquet of flowers she received Omaha North students (from left) Grace McCann and Jenna Schomer.

RIGHT, Taleya Broadway, Omaha Northwest High School Career Coach, provides some preparatory guidance for Davian Sayers prior to his remarks as an ASF Speaker for the Senior Academy Luncheon.



Scholar delivers MCC commencement address

Nyemouch (Nye) Tot knew she wanted to be a lawyer when was 12 years old, so of course, she pictures herself, “in five or six years having my doctorate and working in a good law firm.”

That confidence was front and center when Tot delivered the commencement address at her Metropolitan Community College graduation ceremony Friday, May 11, 2018 in front of over 500 classmates at Baxter arena. After speaking, Tot received her Associate’s Degree in Paralegal Studies.

Tot was first nominated to speak by Dr. McDonald, Vice-President of Academic Affairs. Avenue Scholars Foundation staff also nominated Tot, in recognition of her outstanding scholarship and involvement in leadership activities of the MCC community.

For her commencement address, Tot focused on not being afraid to fail.

“If you find yourself heading in a direction you didn’t intend, it’s OK,” she said. “You need to feel good about being in control of yourself. Be proud of how far you’ve come and have faith in how far you will go.”

Despite her confidence, Tot knows she will not be able to avoid the pitfalls of the

future.

“I know it will be a rollercoaster,” she says. “I want to live in the moment because I am not sure what life will be like in the future.”

Tot, a 2016 Bellevue West High School graduate, gives a lot of credit for her success and her confidence to Avenue Scholars Foundation and to Metropolitan Community College.

“If not for their (ASF staff) assistance at MCC, it would have been difficult for me to make that transition — from high school, to college (MCC) and now to the University of Nebraska Lincoln,” Tot said.

Tot will be enrolling at UNL this fall, where she plans to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science.

She attributes much of her success to the financial

support and mentorship provided by Avenue Scholars staff.

“Avenue Scholars gives you the resources to succeed, and says ‘here, we’ll see what you can do,’ ” Tot said. “With them financing my education, look at all the things I was able to do. In a real sense, they are building the future leaders of tomorrow.”

By all estimates of Avenue Scholars and MCC staff, Tot is one of those leaders.



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“Friends of Avenue Scholars Foundation” awards were announced: Mark Pope, Hawkins Construction Company, presented by Brittani Tanhueco; Carly Frost, Metropolitan Community College, presented by Monica Wells; Scott Moore, Auctioneer Extraordinaire, presented by Mike Alvano; and Joe Cavanaugh, Youth Frontiers, presented by Ken Bird.

Dr. Bird, Avenue Scholars Foundation President/CEO provided overview remarks, and Terry Fischer, Director of Business Outreach, provided welcoming and closing remarks.



Elane Jones proudly displays recognition of her scholarship with Ken Bird, ASF President/CEO, and Ben Gray, Omaha City Councilman.

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“Our mission is to ensure careers for committed students of hope and need through education/training and supportive relationships.”



Sofia Baum gives back to ASF in Extension job

Sofia Baum, through her job as a Nebraska Extension agent in the Health and Resources department, has found a way to “give back” to Avenue Scholars Foundation.

In April Baum was completing her second “Project Eat” series with ASF college students. Project Eat provides education for low income and low resource individuals.

“I provide lessons about food safety, budgeting and the importance of making meals at home,” Baum said.

Baum, a 2012 Ralston graduate, received her Bachelor’s of Science in Public Health from the University of Nebraska Omaha in 2017. She also has minors in Gerontology, Public Policy and Leadership.

As an Avenue Scholar at Ralston, Baum never dreamed she would one day “be working with Scholars” as a career professional.

“I love my job,” says Baum, who plans to some day pursue a Master’s degree.

Baum credits Avenue Scholars Foundation with “opening up her vision beyond high school.”



TOP, Sofia Baum, in her role as Nebraska Extension agent, leads a discussion on food choices and food budgeting through a Jeopardy-style educational game. **ABOVE**, Christine Olvera, a 2014 Millard South graduate, and Kobien Byers, a 2017 Papillion LaVista graduate, listen closely to Baum’s instructions for preparing a meal. Byers is studying business at MCC.

FAR RIGHT, Christine Olvera, who received an Associate’s degree in Applied Science at MCC, displays the finished product, a stuffed pepper, prepared by Scholars for an evening meal. **RIGHT**, William Canto-Dimas, who is studying Culinary Arts at MCC, performs his chosen task of chopping an onion for the stuffed pepper meal.

