



Career Awareness Program benefits students

High school juniors in the Avenue Scholars program have benefitted from a busy fall of exploring careers. This year, Avenue Scholars, through its Career Awareness program, has partnered with 19 different businesses/organizations to offer a total of 26 events.

Businesses/organizations new to Career Awareness were Munroe-Meyer's Autism Care for Toddlers Clinic, AIM Institute, Werner Technology, Steamfitters Union, Sheppard's Business Interiors (SBI), Elman Print, Scott Data Center, Cornhusker International, No More Empty Pots, Hilton Garden, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, ACCESS-Bank, and McGill Gotsdiner Workman & Lepp.

Returning partners: Woodhouse Auto, Baxter Auto, CarStar, Fulton Homes, Quality Career Pathways, and QLI.

"Businesses truly understand the value of Career Awareness experiences. Thankfully, our business partners have been willing to partner with us to offer in-person experiences this year," said Lindsay Decker, Career Exploration Coordinator.

Although the continuing Coronavirus Pandemic has limited the number of students who can attend each event, Avenue Scholars has been creative in providing ample opportunities for every student who wishes to participate.

"In an effort to honor business health guidelines and to keep our students as safe as possible, we've collaborated with businesses to offer multiple sessions of their event so that we can serve as many students as possible who might have an interest in their particular industry,"

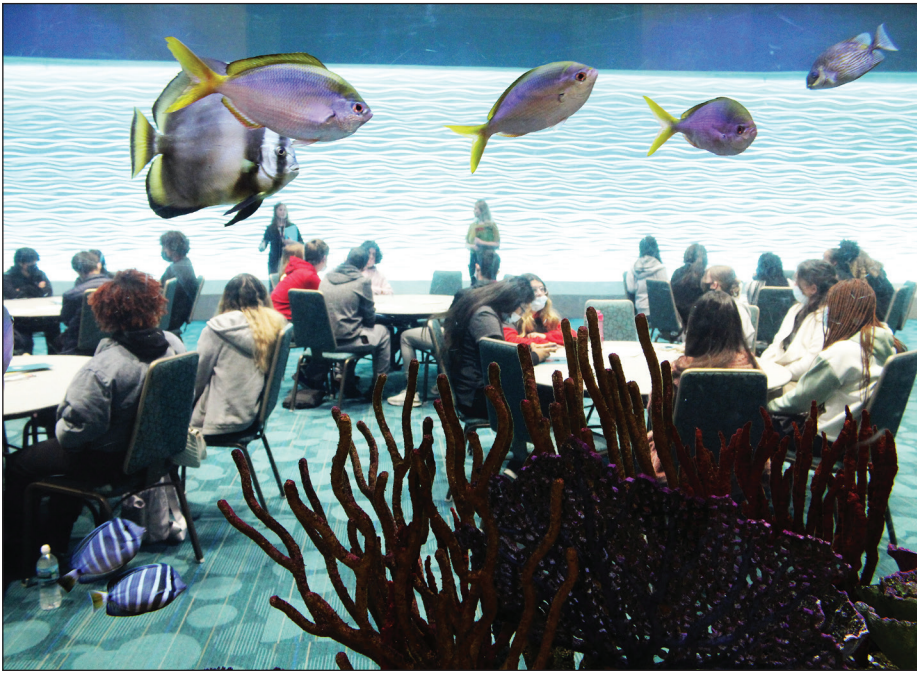
Decker said.

The overall goal of the Career Awareness program is to enable students to be better informed of their potential career pathways and what steps they will need to take in pursuing those careers. The program has made a difference in students' success in finding careers that fit their interests.

"Our business partners are truly skilled in understanding how to expose students to their industry — it's really an exciting thing to witness; business and education merging together," Decker said. "For example, I loved watching our culinary students cook a meal and learn various culinary techniques with No More Empty Pots. It's funny because I typically spend months planning these events, so it's always special to watch a students' faces light up when they're having fun and connecting with a business partner—that's how you know a seed was planted in a student's mind."

Decker sees every event as a successful experience for students.

"Career Awareness gives students a chance to experience an industry through their senses. A student can take in what they've learned and see if they can imagine themselves in a similar role," she says. "I always joke that whatever the outcome with a Career Awareness event, it's always a win to me. If a student didn't like the event, that's a win. If they *did* like the event, that's a win, too! Regardless of the outcome, they're getting close to discovering what's important to them when it comes to imagining themselves at work."



Senior pursues career in business

Antone McNair, an Outstanding Senior Scholar at Omaha Benson High School, is enrolled in the Business & Entrepreneurship Academy.

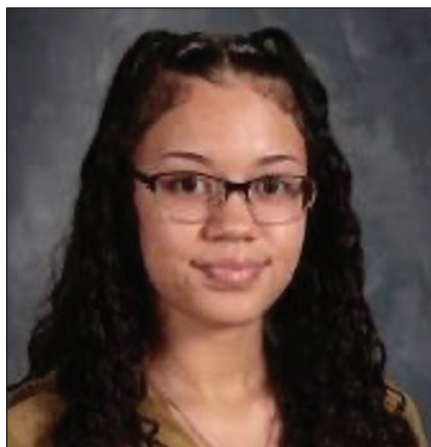
His goal is to pursue a Business Degree after high school. Antone has maintained part time employment at Altitude Trampoline Park while also participating as a member of the Benson High School basketball team. Antone is also doing work in EXP 1000.



Junior eyes future as real estate agent

Breonna Avery, an Outstanding Junior Scholar at Omaha Benson High School, plans to pursue a career in Business and become a real estate agent.

She is currently employed at Kohl's Department Store as a sales associate. Breonna always participates in class discussions and one of the first students to complete her assignments.



UPDATE

Avenue Scholars is well into the 2021-2022 school year here at Benson High School.



Benson has a total of 20 seniors and 27 Juniors for a total of 47 active scholars. Students are excited about the opportunities that being a part of the program brings. Students have proven themselves to be an excellent group of hard working, committed students inside and outside of the classroom.

Both juniors and seniors are getting familiar with working in the Canvas system.

All seniors are enrolled in EXP 1000 and working the course to gain college credit. The pace of the curriculum has been challenging but the students are working extremely hard to complete the work. They are excited to attend MCC in the spring.

The juniors have completed their commitment letters, learned about their individual Gallup Strengths, and attending their Career Awareness events. The career awareness events have students excited about the potential careers. Juniors are now working on resumes and preparing to apply for Intern Omaha.

Recruitment for the 2024 Cohort is starting up, and we are looking for 25-30 students that fit the criteria of attending MCC for an Associate's Degree or less. We hope to gain candidates that are looking to go into high demand, high wage, and high skill careers in the Omaha area

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