



Career Awareness Program benefits Scholars

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 dreams of nursing career

Tey'Laan Webb-Moss, an Outstanding Senior Scholar, is a determined young lady who has already achieved her CNA certification at Fulton Homes and has dreams to become a registered nurse.

"Tey'Laan is learning how to balance school and work" Career Coach Fred Starks said. "She is currently working at Pacsun retail store as a sales Associate.

Tey'Laan has a passion for helping others and is looking to use her CNA certification in the near future.

"I am thankful for the Avenue Scholars program because it has



given me an opportunity to pursue my career passions in the healthcare industry," Tey'Laan said.

Junior taking charge of future

Jaily Gonzalez, an Outstanding Junior Scholar, is an ambitious student looking to take charge of her future in the Construction/Trades industry.

Jaily excels in her studies, currently holding a cumulative 3.8 GPA," Career Coach Fred Starks said. "Besides having interest in the Construction/Trades industry, Jaily has a passion for orchestra."

Jaily is currently working 20 hours a week part time at Scooter's Coffee as a barista.

"I enjoy talking to customers and being part of a team at Scooters," Jaily said. "I am very



thankful for the opportunity to be a part of a program such as Avenue Scholars to help achieve my career goals."

UPDATE

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



With 43 active students this year, the Avenue Scholars program is growing and thriving. This year's students have already proven themselves to be an excellent group of hard working, committed students inside and outside of the classroom.

Many Scholars brought with them a wealth of part-time job experience, and others have worked to secure employment this fall. Our goal is that ALL students have some sort of work experience by graduation, as we know this is the best way for students to gain work-ready skills.

Our seniors are currently taking Metro's EXPL 1000 course, a required course for all degree-seeking students.

All juniors are busy with their career exploration opportunities to help determine their career goals. It has been a great start to the year and we are looking forward to continuing the work to ensure everyone is meeting the goals they have set for themselves.

Fred Starks

High School Career Coach
402-547-0230
fstarks@avescholars.org