



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 weighs options for career

Luis Alberto Adame, an Outstanding Senior Scholar, has a part-time job that he continued at Clearway Energy after his summer internship with the company ended.

"He is very well liked by his employers and was rated as exceeding expectation on all categories on his employer feedback," said his Career Coaches. "Because he is only able to work a few hours per week due to conflict with his school schedule and the hours of operation of Clearway, he recently applied to work at Nebraska Furniture Mart in the warehouse where he began employment in November at \$17.75 per hour."

Luis is on track to meaningful career.

"Although he thought he wanted to be an electrician, after his internship and exposure to welding he is now interested in pursuing a career in welding; he is also considering CAD Design because he is currently taking a class that he very much enjoys. Luis will figure out his pathway by graduation time, and in the meantime he will continue researching and participating in all that AS has to offer. Luis is a quiet, responsible, hardworking student. He is goal oriented and motivated to succeed; he would like to be successful to give his parents a better lifestyle."



Junior plans career in healthcare

Maria Alicia Rodriguez, an Outstanding Junior Scholar, has a part-time job at Dominoes Pizza, but food services industry will not be the focus of her future career.

Maria would like to pursue a career in healthcare.

"She just began participating in the Fulton Homes CNA program offered through Avenue Scholars," said her Career Coaches. "Maria is has a very positive attitude and is friendly and helpful; I am looking forward to getting to know her more and watch her grow and succeed."



UPDATE

At Omaha South High School, our seniors are working on their Explore 1000 class through MCC and with Senior Academy happening next semester, they will continue taking MCC classes towards their career pathway.



Three seniors extended their summer internship through IO to part time employment in the fall; two seniors just began the Fulton Homes CNA program; two completed it last year. I also have three seniors who participated in the Summer Trades Bootcamp (receiving their OSHA-10 certification).

Most seniors have also been participating in the Career Explorations (since they missed out junior year due to Covid restrictions). Seniors are busy and motivated and looking forward to the next step towards their careers.

Juniors are diligently working on their resumes to be prepared for the Intern Omaha Career Expo happening on November 18th. They have been participating in Career Explorations since the beginning of October.

Three juniors participated in the Summer Bootcamp program, receiving their OSHA-10 Certification, and on student in the Information Technology Bootcamp. Four juniors are currently enrolled in the CNA program at Fulton Homes Education Center.

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