



AVENUE SCHOLARS.

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Media Contact
Cheri Duryea
P: 402.250.3928
E: cheri@canaryandcoal.com

Noelle Nelson Named Executive Director of Avenue Scholars Des Moines

OMAHA, Neb. (March 1, 2022) – Avenue Scholars, an Omaha-based education and workforce development program that ensures careers for students of hope and need, is proud to announce the hiring of Noelle Nelson as the Executive Director of the Avenue Scholars Des Moines program.

Avenue Scholars Des Moines, a partnership between MidAmerican Energy and Avenue Scholars in collaboration with Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS), is a student internship and career program that will provide coaching, support services, and workforce development opportunities for Des Moines-area high school students. Programming is slated to begin in the 2022-23 school year in select DMPS high schools, with plans to support students in all five DMPS high schools upon full implementation.

Nelson brings over 20 years of experience in the DMPS system, most recently as Executive Director of Leadership and Learning. Since 2018 Nelson has led a team of professionals in service for 60 schools and 33,000 students in the areas of curriculum, instructional programming, and supervision of schools. As Executive Director of Avenue Scholars Des Moines, Nelson will be responsible for strategic planning, program operations, development, and administration of the new program's activities.

"I am thrilled to join the Avenue Scholars family and look forward to expanding the programming to Des Moines, said Nelson. "I fell in love with the mission and vision of Avenue Scholars and am honored to have been selected to lead this expansion. Together, we can bridge the gap between education and the business community!"

"Noelle brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Des Moines school system and we are excited to have her on board," said Dr. Ken Bird, President and CEO of Avenue Scholars. "Her background will be invaluable as we build this new program to prepare Des Moines students for the high-demand and well-paid careers identified by Future Ready Iowa."

Visit avescholars.org to learn more about the Avenue Scholars program.

About Avenue Scholars

Founded in 2008 by a group of Omaha philanthropists, Avenue Scholars, the leader in bridging the gap between education and business, guarantees careers for its youth of hope and need through supportive relationships, individualized coaching, education, and training. Avenue Scholars provides comprehensive, individualized support services to help Omaha-area students from low-income backgrounds identify, prepare for, and ultimately enter financially sustaining, high-demand careers requiring an associate degree or less. The program also provides grant assistance to enable participating students to continue their postsecondary education/training at Metropolitan Community College via support provided through the Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation and Metropolitan Community College.

Avenue Scholars Des Moines is the second Iowa-based program to operate under the Avenue Scholars model, following Career EdVantage Southwest Iowa, an initiative of the Charles E. Lakin Foundation, which launched in 2019. For more information about CareerEdvantage, visit <https://careeredvantage.org>.

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