



AVENUE SCHOLARS.

Your Foundation for Success

What's New



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MOCK INTERVIEW DAYS: FEBRUARY 2023

We want our juniors to have interview experience with a caring professional!

If you're able to donate your time to interview an Avenue Scholars student, visit: tiny.cc/ASinterviews

Please contact Jessi Hedlund at jhedlund@avescholars.org with any questions



Avenue Scholars Welcomes Blair High School



Chris Ross

Jill Gross

Dr. Randy Gilson

The Avenue Scholars program has expanded to 11 schools with the addition of Blair High School this school year, in collaboration with Metro Community College (MCC). The existing partnership between MCC and Blair made Blair an ideal location for the expansion of the Avenue Scholars program.

Nine juniors are currently enrolled in the first Avenue Scholars class at Blair, led by High School Career Coach Jordyn Smith, a former student and teacher at Blair High School.

“We have had amazing support from the BHS staff, which has made recruitment a lot better,” Smith said. “I will be bringing a full class of sophomores to the 2023 luncheon, which is very exciting. We are still working on the recruiting for that class; I am hopeful we will have 25 students in the class come next August.”

Blair counselors Chris Ross and Jill Gross credit Superintendent Dr. Randy Gilson with initiating the partnership with Avenue Scholars, noting that Blair had already become familiar with the Avenue Scholars program through Intern Omaha.

Ross says Blair was definitely ready to become the first Avenue Scholars school outside of the Omaha metro area. Several elements of the Avenue Scholars program stand out for Ross and Gross — High School Career Coaches, Postsecondary Career Coaches, and grants to attend MCC.

“It’s great for our students, having all the support Avenue Scholars provides,” Ross said. “And having that financial piece is something families have certainly grabbed onto.”

Gross sees the Avenue Scholars program as a great opportunity for students to find a career path.

Coach's Corner



The Senior Year Experience

Senior Academy provides Avenue Scholars students a unique and direct path to Metropolitan Community College (MCC) by bridging the gap between high school and college. This program provides college access, early dual credit, and support to Avenue Scholars students when barriers had previously existed.

Earlier this month, Avenue Scholars seniors attended their Senior Academy orientation with MCC College Success Navigators Stacey Mapp, Tiffany Johnson, Kyran Connor.

Scholars learned how to log into MyWay, MCC’s portal that gives students access to the resources and tools needed to be successful in their college experience. In addition, students received their MCC student ID card, which helps prepare them for when classes start.

There aren't enough words to thank our partners at MCC as well as our very own Michael Johnson, Assistant Director of Programs, for all of his hard work organizing class placement testing, scheduling transportation, and helping Scholars know what to expect.

Business Partners

ACCESSbank Partnership Benefits Students

The Avenue Scholars partnership with ACCESSbank is another model of success in the community of 120 business partners the program has established in the Omaha area. Currently, three Avenue Scholars students — Lexus Diggs, Ally Miller, and Jeremy Martell — are reaping the benefits as full-time employees at ACCESSbank.

Kathy Headley, Vice President, Director of Organizational Experience, has provided the leadership connection with Avenue Scholars. She is impressed with how well Avenue Scholar students are prepared for engaging in the Omaha workforce.

“These students have interviewed so well, and they really show they want to be here,” Headley said. “They are very well prepared. Their skills are better, or at least test as well as any we are getting from other sources.”



Before joining the program as a partner in March 2021, ACCESSbank became acquainted with Avenue Scholars by participating in various activities and events, including Intern Omaha, postsecondary internships, and boot camps. After integrating the Avenue Scholars students as paid interns, ACCESSbank “graduated” them out of the internships into permanent employee positions, qualifying them for full-time benefits.

Events



Intern Omaha Expo

Intern Omaha (IO) is an Avenue Scholars initiative. The program draws together Avenue Scholars students, schools, and employers from across the community in a collective effort to provide year-long, co-curricular, paid internships for high school seniors in high-demand industries, including information technology, building trades/manufacturing, auto/diesel technology, and business.

The program is now working with its fifth cohort of students, and has been updated to match phased approach.

- **Phase 1:** they discuss what an internship is, how an internship can help their future career development, and how it's different from a part-time job
- **Phase 2:** is about presenting their best self, self-exploration of skills, learning their strengths and areas for improvement, as well as doing job description analysis to learn if a job is a good fit for them
- **Phase 3:** the students spend time in the classroom learning about the purpose of the Intern Omaha Expo, writing and practicing their elevator pitch, and researching internships. Students' Career Coaches also help them with application process.
- **Phase 4:** the Avenue Scholars staff holds mock interviews to prepare the students to talk with employers and give them a real-life experience of a job interview.

The business partners are excited about this new approach because the students are more engaged, ask good questions, and are more prepared for the first day of their internship.

There are 70 internship opportunities available for Cohort 5, ranging across all industries.

The Intern Omaha Expo will take place on Tuesday, January 31st at Scott Conference Center in Aksarben Village. There are over 200 Avenue Scholars students and 25 businesses participating in this year's event

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