



Pathway Newsletter

August 2025 Edition

Dear Friends of Avenue Scholars,

I love the back-to-school season and all the energy it brings! This year, Avenue Scholars kicks off the 2025-26 school year in 13 partner high schools – our most to date! I can't wait to share more from our Career Coaches about the progress in their classrooms as Scholars begin exploring their strengths, interests, and the various career opportunities available to them. Thank you for being a part of our work!

Lindsay Decker
CEO

Speaking Up and Stepping Forward Self-Advocacy Is a Skill of Growing Importance

In today's fast-changing job market, soft skills help candidates land jobs. Research says skills like adaptability and communication are rising to the top of the list of what employers want. Another of these in-demand soft skills: the ability to self-advocate. Yet young people often still struggle with how to speak up for themselves.

At school, self-advocacy could look like asking for help with classwork. At work, it's navigating a tough conversation with a supervisor. At Avenue Scholars, we help students build the confidence to express their needs, set boundaries, and advocate for their goals – skills that lead to stronger relationships and long-term success.

What Employers Want:

- Reliability
- Time Management
- Customer Service Skills
- Ability to Advocate for Self



Avenue Scholars equips
young people with these
real-world skills and more.



Team Lead and Career Services Coach Tom Robertson sees firsthand how intimidating these moments can be. But with coaching and practice, Scholars learn to reframe challenges as opportunities to lead with clarity and professionalism.

Tom shares more about the common barriers Scholars face and how to overcome

them in a recent blog post.

Read More about Scholars Learning Soft Skills



Monthly Mission Moment ACCESSbank Partnership



ACCESSbank has been an Avenue Scholars partner since 2021, helping students explore high-potential careers in banking. The team at ACCESSbank shares our commitment to investing in Omaha's workforce.

"Our partnership has connected us to a diverse pipeline of talented young professionals who are not only ready to contribute, but also motivated to grow, making it a win-win for us, the students, and Avenue Scholars," said Kathy Headley, senior vice president and director of organizational experience at ACCESSbank.

Read the full Q&A with Headley to learn more about what's possible through business partnership.



Alumni Spotlight

Noemie is now a business owner!

Just over a year after graduating from Bryan High School, Noemie Olmedo is thriving as the owner of Mimi's Florez, a floral business that specializes in custom arrangements for weddings and events. Her journey began with a love for beauty and blossomed through the support of Avenue Scholars, where she built confidence, community, and career clarity.

Now, Noemie returns to her roots as the featured florist for an upcoming Avenue Scholars fundraising event. We can't wait to showcase her stunning work and celebrate the impact of young talent in full bloom.

[Read More of Noemie's Story](#)



STAY CONNECTED

Make a Gift, Make a Difference!

Workforce development has been our focus since Avenue Scholars was founded. We believe the "workforce" isn't an abstract concept. It's our neighbors, family members, and colleagues – our community's collective future. Real people. Real change.

To support this important work, we invite you to make an online gift before the end of the fiscal year – Aug. 31 – using the link below. Your support, in any amount, helps us help Scholars.

[Fuel Their Future](#)



Avenue Scholars
2121 N. 117th Avenue, Suite 220
Omaha, NE 68164
avescholars.org



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