



Pathway Newsletter

November 2025 Edition

Help Us Be the Heartbeat of Hope Support Scholars Beginning Careers in Healthcare



#GIVINGTUESDAY402
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AVENUE SCHOLARS™

We're in the final stretch before Giving Tuesday on December 2 – but early giving is open now!

Our goal is to raise the funds to help **NINE Scholars** get their certified nursing assistant (CNA) certificates. This is the first step for many Scholars who want to work in healthcare, where we've seen a surge of interest – **36% of current Scholars are pursuing healthcare as their industry of choice.**

Your support, in any amount, will help launch these nine Scholars toward successful futures and fill a vital need in the Omaha workforce.

More good news: Be among the first 10 donors to give \$50, and your donation will be doubled, thanks to a match from generous supporters!

Click the button below to make a gift, and continue reading to learn about the impact a CNA certification made in the life of one of our Scholars.

Make a Gift Today

Sip, Savor, Support ✓

Thanks to All Who Poured into Opportunities for Our Scholars

This year's annual **Avenue Scholars Wine Tasting and Vintner Dinner** fundraiser on November 20 was more than an evening of fine wine and fellowship.

During the event, which raised funds to support our program, around 200 guests had the opportunity to sample various wines and bid on excursions in wine country. But most importantly, they heard from Scholars themselves about how the program changed their lives.

Three former Scholars spoke at the event. In her remarks, one Scholar said, **"Avenue Scholars ... you believed in me when I didn't always believe in myself. You gave me the skills, the guidance, and the support I needed to become who I am today."**

Many thanks to our event sponsors, donors, and attendees!



That's a Wrap on Career Awareness 2025!
Behind-the-Scenes Events Inspire Scholars

This fall, Avenue Scholars partnered with local businesses to offer **more than 30 Career Awareness events around the metro**. These gave Scholars, mostly high school juniors, a hands-on look at possible careers with Omaha companies. The goal: Inform Scholars of potential career pathways and the steps they need to take to pursue them.

Whether they came away with a new career goal, or a new understanding of what they *don't* want to do, our Scholars had the chance to discover what's important to them as they imagine themselves at work, painting a clearer picture of their future.



Photo: At Hawkins Construction Company, Scholars had the chance to simulate using construction equipment.



Monthly Mission Moment
Scholar Spotlight: Alicia Ahilon-Ortiz

ALUM SPOTLIGHT



Alicia
Ahilon-Ortiz

Alicia, a graduate of Bryan High School and an Avenue Scholars alum, spoke at our Vintner Dinner fundraiser about her journey – and received a standing ovation.

Alicia told the crowd that, in high school, she often felt insecure and unsure of herself, but she was determined to take her future into her own hands. She did that, she said, by joining Avenue Scholars.

With support and guidance from her Career Coach (Director of Career Services Tonya Fairgood), Alicia obtained her CNA and medication aide certifications, while also building her confidence and resilience. Today, as a medical assistant with CHI Health, she serves patients with skill and compassion.

She proudly shares her story as proof that Avenue Scholars equips young people not only with the resources and credentials to start their careers, but with a deep and lasting belief in themselves.

Alicia, thank you for sharing your story, and we look forward to following all your success in the years to come!

'Tis the Season for Gratitude

THANK YOU

I wanted to thank you for your support!
Because of you, I received my CNA license. I
was able to attend the classes and not worry
about the cost! I now have a job, I feel
amazing, I am ~~so~~^{super} grateful! It was
a relief when my coach told me I didn't
have to worry about paying for my books,
or the class its self!

This inspired me to work even harder
to pass my state test. Thank you for
investing in my future. Thank you for
your support, Thanks for believing in
me.

-Current Scholar, Future Nurse

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we'd like to share this note, written by a Scholar, thanking our partners at Cox Communications for financial support that helped her obtain a CNA certification.

She writes:

I wanted to thank you for your support! Because of you I received my CNA license. I was able to attend the classes and not worry about the cost! I now have a job, I feel amazing, I am super grateful! It was a relief when my Coach told me I didn't have to worry about paying for my books or the class itself!

This inspired me to work even harder to pass my state test. Thank you for investing in my future. Thank you for your support. Thanks for believing in me.

All of us at Avenue Scholars echo her gratitude. We don't – and can't – do this work alone.

So, to all of our friends, partners, and supporters, thank you for your belief in those we serve. Happy Thanksgiving!

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