

Pathway Newsletter



August 2026 Edition



Dear Friends of Avenue Scholars,

School is back in session. Those first bells have rung, and our Career Coaches are settling back into classrooms across the metro.

For a Coach beginning to work more closely with a Scholar, this is where the work actually starts: Learning what a student is good at, which careers might fit their strengths and interests, what they're worried about, and what they want life after graduation to look like.

At Avenue Scholars, we track outcomes at every stage of our program. But those outcomes begin with a Coach who understands a Scholar's strengths, barriers and goals well enough to provide the right guidance at the right time. Building that level of trust takes time, which is why long-term coaching is essential to our model.

Below, you'll hear from a few of our Career Coaches who share their best back-to-school advice. You'll also learn about our Career Awareness program, in which, this fall, Scholars will have the chance to visit local businesses and see what a day in the life of their career of choice really looks like.

The school year is long, and there may be busy weeks ahead ... But the first few weeks are a good reminder of why we do this work the way we do it — one student, one conversation, one career plan at a time.

Here's to a great year.

With Gratitude,
Lindsay Decker
CEO

Mission Moment

Back-to-School Season: Advice from Our Coaches

Our High School Career Coaches are officially back on campus with their Scholars!

Moving back into full hallways, packed schedules, and school activities is a huge adjustment for everyone. Setting the right tone in these first few weeks makes all the difference for the rest of the year.

To help our community jumpstart a great semester, a few of our Coaches shared their best back-to-school advice for building positive and lasting momentum.

[Watch the Video on Our Blog!](#)



Coaches Share Back-to-School Advice

Partner Feature

Upcoming Career Awareness Opportunities

This fall, our Scholars are stepping into the professional world through Career Awareness: an annual series of field trips to local employers.

Guided by their Coaches, Scholars select field trips aligned with their goals so they can:

- **Explore Industry Pathways:** Tour local workplaces and see real-world operations in action.
- **Build Professional Networks:** Connect directly with local employers and fellow Scholars from across the Omaha metro.
- **Practice Core Skills:** Put classroom communication and professional habits into practice.

"Thank you to our business partners for impacting our Scholars and helping them navigate their future careers," said Dan Corral, Business Outreach Coordinator, who is organizing this year's Career Awareness program. "Through these hands-on experiences and industry insights, Scholars discover career paths they are passionate about. Ultimately, this drives a lasting, positive impact across the Omaha community and economy."

Each year, Avenue Scholars collaborates with local businesses for Career Awareness field trips, mock interviews, employment referrals, internships, and more. Together, we are transforming how young people achieve their career goals.

If you would like to connect with us about becoming a partner, please email our Business Outreach Team at businessoutreach@avescholars.org.



Scholar Spotlight

Ralston Scholar Atem M. Shifted Gears to Become a Diesel Mechanic

That "aha moment" is what the Avenue Scholars experience is all about. Case in point: Scholar Atem M., who toured Truck Center Companies during last year's summer Boot Camp.

Seeing the facility firsthand, Atem realized right away that's where he wanted to be. Today, he's on the floor as a summer intern servicing diesel trucks — a job he's planning on keeping part-time during his senior year.

"Originally, I wanted to work on cars, but seeing this job changed my mind," Atem said. "The technicians here are really great to talk to."

Atem credits his Career Coach, Cindy Alcaraz Dubon, with guiding him through the application process and helping him build a standout resume.

See More of Atem's Story



Staff Snapshot

A group of [*Avenue Scholars staff*](#) spent a few hours this month volunteering at Food Bank for the Heartland. There, they inspected bags of bread, labeled non-perishable food items, and packed them into boxes.

It was a great chance to do something with coworkers that makes a difference

in the community. Overall, we helped ensure 3,010 pounds of food were labeled and boxed.



Monthly Rewind

Catch up on more impactful moments with our staff and Scholars from the past month:

- Avenue Scholars staff hosted a table at the Connected Roots Care Center's Big Dreams community event. We were so thrilled to attend and be out in the community. Staff had a blast seeing everybody who visited our booth to grab some candy and play cornhole for prizes!
- Avenue Scholars Chief Operating Officer Catie Dagle joined Dana Village's Foster Youth Summit on August 20 to explore how agencies and nonprofits can collaborate to support youth transitioning out of foster care. Hosted by Lutheran Family Services and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the summit included a panel where Dagle spoke about the importance of community partnerships and sharing resources.

- We got the prints back from our disposable cameras that we handed out to Scholars to capture their experience from summer 2026 Boot Camp. They didn't disappoint. [Check out the highlights on our website.](#)



Stay Connected

New School Year, New Stories!

Get behind-the-scenes updates on our [Instagram page!](#)

As always, you can also support our mission by making an online gift on our website. Click the button below to donate today. We're so grateful for your support!

Donate to Avenue Scholars Today!



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