

# Pathway Newsletter



## July 2026 Edition



**Dear Friends of Avenue Scholars,**

Can you hear it?

It's the sound of retailers across the city stocking shelves with looseleaf paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, and paperclips. It's thousands of brand new pairs of shoes squeaking. It's students, teachers, and parents asking each other and themselves, "Wow, where does the time go?"

At Avenue Scholars, the back-to-school season is one of the most energizing stretches of the year. We're excited to be back in school buildings across the metro, working alongside our Scholars and our partners in education who make our work possible.

But before that first bell rings, this month's newsletter is a good reminder that some of the best learning happens well outside of the classroom.

Below, you'll read about how one of our Board members, Mark Haner, hired Scholar Kaleb Canova to work at his vintage car restoration business. Almost a year later, Kaleb is plumbing entire fuel systems on classic trucks, and Mark has an employee he trusts. It's a story about a career taking shape, one engine at a time.

You'll also meet Dezie M., a rising senior at Westside High School, who, after a summer internship at Pinnacle Bank, has discovered a passion for banking. "I want to keep working here when I'm older," she said. "I don't know what I want to advance in yet, but I'm sure happy to find out."

I'm also thrilled to announce that, this month, we welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors. Ted Bridges and Elisa Davies both bring decades of leadership and service to our community, and we're so grateful that they've chosen to invest their time in furthering our mission.

These stories show that our commitment to our Scholars doesn't live in just one department or school building. It's woven into every part of this organization – from the classroom to the boardroom, the cash drawer to the shop floor.

Here's to the new school year!

With Gratitude,  
**Lindsay Decker**  
CEO

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## Mission Moment

### **Board Member, Scholar Team Up to Restore Classic Cars**

When Scholar Kaleb Canova first walked into Haner Haus Vintage Works, he noticed the owner was wearing an Avenue Scholars T-shirt. "What do you know about Avenue Scholars," Canova asked.

"Well, I'm on the Board there," Mark Haner told him.

Nine months and a few vintage car restorations later, Canova has become a key part of the team.

"I've got a wonderful employee in Kaleb," Haner said. "He's helping me bring people's dreams to life and put them on the road."

Canova completed Avenue Scholars' High School Program at Millard South and is now finishing a degree in Powersports and Outdoor Power Technology at Metropolitan Community College. He says the hands-on work at Haner Haus has taught him more than he expected.

"I've learned a lot from Mark," Canova said. "Being able to see something from start to finish, how it started, and then putting in all the work time and seeing how it ends — I really enjoy that part of it."

[Watch the Video!](#)



# Scholar Spotlight

**Dezie M. Discovers Passion for Banking**

Dezie M., a rising senior from Westside High School, is loving her summer internship as a teller with Pinnacle Bank. There, she's learning banking basics, helping customers withdraw and deposit funds, check their account balances, and more.

"The people here are amazing and very welcoming," Dezie said. "I love working here at the bank, and I want to keep working here when I'm older — I want to advance more. I don't know what I want to advance in yet, but I'm sure happy to find out."

When interviewing for this position, Dezie said her High School Career Coach, Beth Leach, taught her, "to always stay confident, to never let a situation stress you out, and to just always stay positive."

[Hear More from Dezie](#)



## HQ Highlights

**New Board Members and All-Staff Retreat**

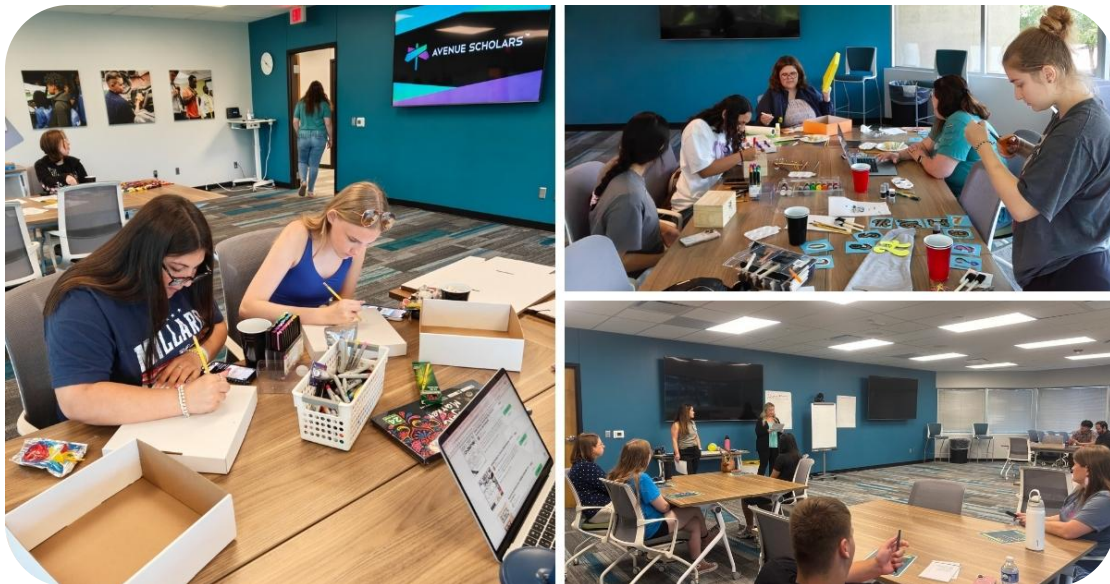
- On July 21, the Avenue Scholars Board voted to welcome two new members: Ted Bridges and Elisa Davies. We are so excited to have both of them with us, and we know their leadership will make a difference for our Scholars. [Read more about them on our blog!](#)
- The Avenue Scholars team gathered together for two days to build culture, reflect, and prepare for the new school year at Camp Ave, our summer camp-themed all-staff retreat. The highlight? Recognizing Canei Rodriguez, High School Career Coach, who was nominated by her peers to receive our first ever Campie Champ award for consistently going above and beyond for Scholars and exemplifying our core values. Congrats, Canei!



# Monthly Rewind

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

- On July 22, the Methodist Community Counseling Program hosted a mental health workshop at Avenue Scholars HQ where they shared strategies with Scholars to care for themselves while they grow in their career.
- The High School Team hosted two social events for Scholars at the office, aiming to build connections over the summer. At Movie Day, Scholars watched "Project Hail Mary" together (Amaze amaze amaze!) At Craft Day, they decorated clothes and made specialized boxes and friendship bracelets.
- One part of helping Scholars overcome challenges is building up a community around them. Canei Rodriquez, High School Career Coach, shared how she helps Scholars form "their village" of trusted supporters.
- July and August are packed with staff workiversaries! Make sure to check out the latest videos on Instagram to get to know the people behind the mission of Avenue Scholars.



# Stay Connected

## Watch Scholars Succeed!

See and share how Avenue Scholars is impacting our community on LinkedIn. We'd love for you to [connect with us!](#)

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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