

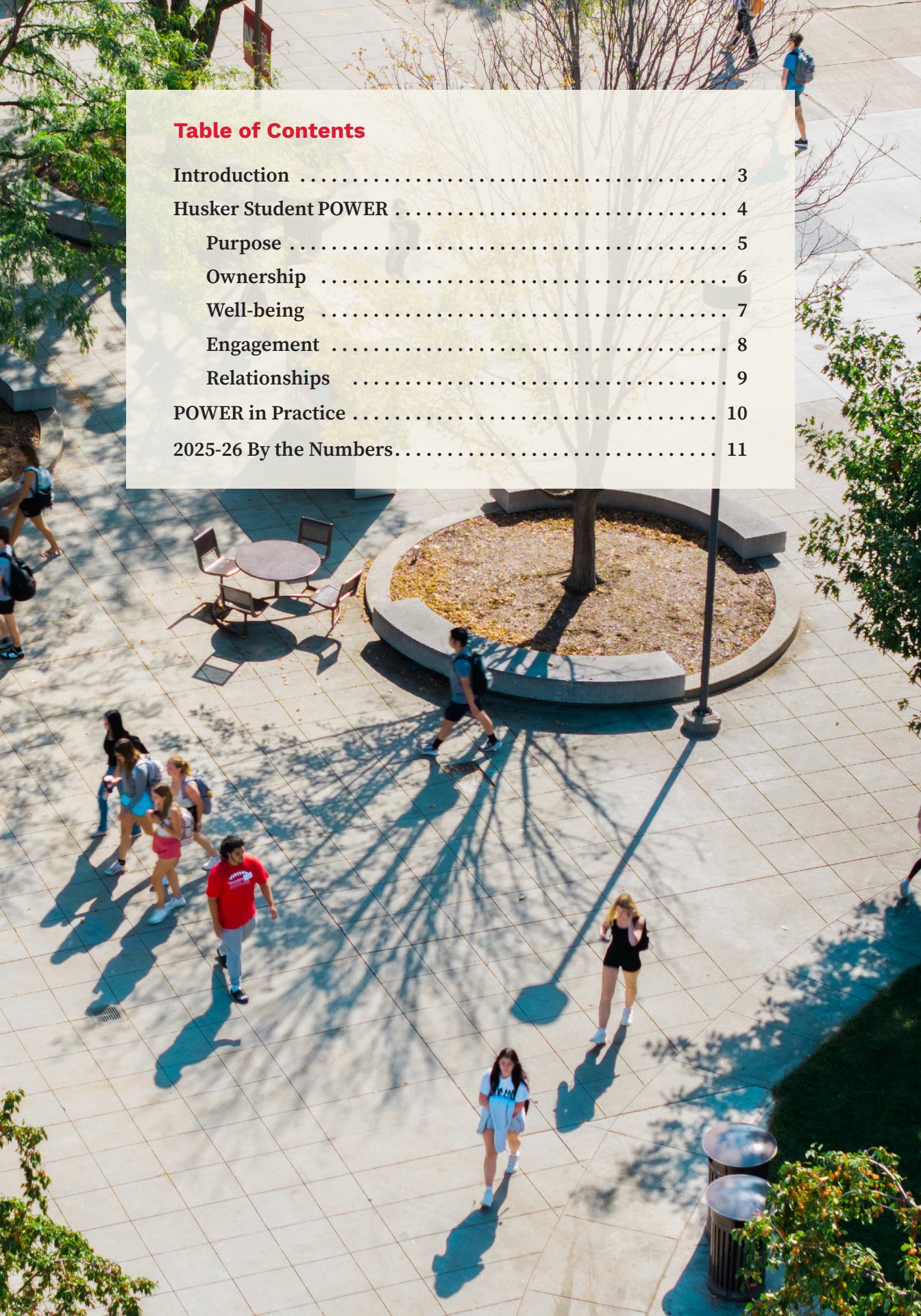


STUDENT LIFE

# *STUDENT LIFE* **IMPACT REPORT**

**2025-2026**



An aerial photograph of a university plaza. In the center is a circular tree pit with a concrete curb and a tree. To the left of the tree pit is a small round table with four chairs. Several students are walking across the paved plaza, which has long shadows cast across it. In the bottom right corner, there are two black trash cans. The background shows more trees and a building.

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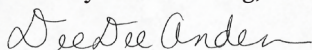
Colleagues,

This year's Student Life Impact Report reflects the many ways Student Life helps students shape their experience at NEBRASKA. Through Husker Student POWER, we see that success is built not through one program, service, or moment, but through opportunities for students to discover their purpose, take ownership of their journey, care for their well-being, engage with their campus, and build meaningful relationships.

The stories in these pages show what that looks like in practice. Students are finding purpose through service and employment, taking greater ownership of their choices, accessing new resources that support their well-being, and connecting with communities that help them feel they belong. From new programs like Husker Late Night Ride and Residential Case Management to longstanding efforts in student engagement, care, leadership, and support, our work continues to evolve alongside the needs of our students.

What stands out most is the breadth of people behind these experiences. Across Student Life and throughout the university, staff and campus partners are creating opportunities, removing barriers, strengthening communities, and helping students make the most of their time at NEBRASKA. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful for the care and commitment that make this work possible.

Thank you for reading,



Dr. Dee Dee Anderson

Vice Chancellor for Student Life



## Student Life Departments & Functional Areas

Assessment & Learning Outcomes

Association of Students of the  
University of Nebraska (ASUN)

Campus Recreation

Center for Advocacy, Response &  
Education (CARE)

Counseling & Psychological  
Services (CAPS)

Fraternity & Sorority Life

Housing & Dining

Nebraska Unions

Services for Students with  
Disabilities

Strategic Events

Student Advocacy & Support

Student Conduct & Community  
Standards

Student Culture & Community

Student Leadership, Involvement  
& Community Engagement  
(SLICE)

Student Legal Services

Student Life Business Services

Student Life Marketing &  
Communications

Student Life Staff Development

TRIO Programs

University Children's Center

University Health Center

## Mission

Foster POWERful experiences and communities fundamental to student success.

## Vision

A campus where all Huskers can co-create the path to achieve their goals.

## Guiding Principles

### Be Present

We show up fully—attentive, engaged, and responsive—to create meaningful, authentic connections. Being present fosters a supportive culture where students can thrive.

### Care Deeply

We champion the well-being, growth, and success of every student, staff member, and community member. Caring deeply means going beyond duty to lead with empathy, respect, and compassion.

### Act Responsibly

We lead with integrity, fairness, and accountability in every interaction and decision. Acting responsibly means making decisions that reflect our mission and uphold the trust placed in us by our community.

### Build Tomorrow

We put students first, anticipating needs and embracing innovation to meet tomorrow's challenges. Building for the future means being strategic stewards of our mission—today and for generations to come.



# HUSKER STUDENT POWER

**A foundation for the Husker experience**

Husker Student POWER is the guiding framework for the student experience at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. POWER represents five core elements—Purpose, Ownership, Well-being, Engagement, and Relationships—that collectively shape how students learn, grow, and connect during their time at NEBRASKA.

Developed and championed by Student Life and Undergraduate Education, Husker Student POWER serves as a unifying foundation that links programs, services, and opportunities across campus. It provides students with a holistic approach to success that extends beyond academics and into every part of university life.



**Purpose** helps students reflect on their goals, values, and aspirations, connecting their education with future careers and communities.



**Ownership** emphasizes student responsibility, encouraging them to take initiative, use resources, and make decisions that shape their personal and academic journey.



**Well-being** highlights the importance of supporting the whole student so they can thrive during and after college.



**Engagement** connects students with opportunities inside and outside the classroom, building involvement, leadership, and a sense of belonging.



**Relationships** focus on the people who make NEBRASKA special, ensuring students graduate with meaningful networks of peers, mentors, and community members.

Husker Student POWER not only grounds students in their time on campus but also provides a framework for lasting success after graduation. It helps align the work of Student Life and campus partners, demonstrates the university's commitment to student-centered experiences, and offers a common language to describe how NEBRASKA prepares students to lead and contribute in their careers and communities.



# PURPOSE

## Discover Your Why

### Finding Purpose Through Service

Student Leadership, Involvement & Community Engagement's Volunteer Ambassador Program connects students with local nonprofit organizations, giving them meaningful opportunities to serve while exploring how their interests, values, and goals connect to the communities around them.

Students commit to ongoing volunteer service and participate in regular reflection and leadership development opportunities that help them better understand the impact of their work. Last year, 162 students fully engaged in the program, using their experiences to further define their sense of purpose at NEBRASKA.

That commitment to service extends across Student Life and the university. During the academic year, 3,852 students contributed 57,813 volunteer hours supporting 115 local nonprofits through opportunities facilitated by SLICE and Fraternity & Sorority Life. Their service represented an estimated \$1.9 million in economic impact, while fraternities and sororities also helped community organizations raise more than \$566,000.

**120+**

**students** served in leadership roles across ASUN.

**200,000+**

**ReusePass checkouts** through Dining's reusable container program.

**\$190,082.01**

**raised** by Dance Marathon for Children's Nebraska.



*TRIO pre-college summer programs give middle and high school students meaningful opportunities to experience college and explore what comes next. Through academic preparation, career exploration, and time spent on campus, students begin connecting their interests to future educational and career pathways while developing a clearer sense of purpose.*



# OWNERSHIP

## Own Your Experience

### Building Ownership Through Education

Student Conduct & Community Standards piloted Adaptive Resolution as a new approach to lower-level academic misconduct cases involving unauthorized use of artificial intelligence.

Rather than moving directly to a formal hearing, participating faculty can opt into a process centered on an educational conversation with the student, followed by a discussion with SCCS staff. Students learn how their actions violated academic policies, accept the resulting grade consequence, and consider how to make different choices moving forward.

During the pilot semester, 31 of 194 academic referrals used Adaptive Resolution.

By emphasizing education alongside accountability, the process gives students an opportunity to better understand their decisions while helping faculty respond to the evolving challenges surrounding AI in the classroom.

**29**

**student re-enrollments** reported by SAS during the 2025–26 academic year.

**\$138,000+**

**in financial liability** recovered or avoided for students through Student Legal Services.

**50%**

**of students** registered with SSD shared their accommodation plans with their professors.

“

*I truly believe that serving on the University Conduct Board has allowed me to feel more connected to the UNL community. I have grown as a leader on campus and in other involvements. I have gained more confidence, deeper active listening skills, and civic engagement. I have also learned how to critically think about evidence and cases, especially through supplemental trainings. The trainings have really helped me think in ways I had not prior during hearings and in general.”*

– Alaa Ismail, a Spring 2026 graduate in Computer Science





# WELL-BEING

## Balance Your Whole Self

### Supporting Well-being After Dark

In Spring 2026, ASUN launched the Husker Late Night Ride Program to give students a convenient, dependable transportation option during evening and overnight hours near campus.

The student-developed program supports a wide range of needs, including late-night work shifts, study sessions, campus events, inclement weather, and situations where students may feel unsafe or uncomfortable traveling alone.

From January 28 through May 10, 6,066 students claimed a voucher and used the program for 15,236 rides, traveling more than 32,000 miles. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays accounted for the majority of rides, highlighting strong demand during the busiest late-night periods of the week.

By reducing transportation barriers and giving students a safe option for getting where they need to go, Husker Late Night Ride supports student well-being through a practical solution designed with student safety in mind.

**7,777**

**household members** served by the Husker Pantry last year — a 42.8% increase from the previous year.

**Nearly 3,500**

**students** participated in Big Red Finale activities supporting well-being, academic success, and belonging during finals.

**94%**

**of residents** agreed their residence hall experience positively impacted their well-being.



*CAPS embedded counselors bring mental health support closer to where students study and live, making care more accessible in familiar settings. Through partnerships with the College of Engineering, Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management, and Residence Life, students can connect with a full-time counselor in settings that are already part of their routine.*



# ENGAGEMENT

## Get Involved

### Popcorn Pop-Up Builds a Weekly Tradition of Engagement

Popcorn Pop-Up has become a signature weekly event that brings students, faculty, and staff together while creating opportunities for campus partners to connect with the university community.

Its popularity continues to grow. Fall attendance reached 3,067 participants, including 445 new unique attendees, while spring attendance totaled 3,143 participants, including 514 new unique attendees.

The program also expanded through new initiatives. The Yellow Cup Amnesty program supported sustainability efforts and helped Popcorn Pop-Up earn Certified Sustainable UNL Event recognition at the Scarlet level. The Golden Kernel Club was also created to recognize students who attend their 10th Popcorn Pop-Up with a commemorative metal cup.

Through consistent programming, campus collaboration, a welcoming atmosphere — and, of course, delicious freshly popped popcorn — Popcorn Pop-Up continues to strengthen engagement and connection at NEBRASKA.

**3.47**

**cumulative GPA** for Fraternity and Sorority Life members, reflecting the positive impact of student engagement.

**15,978**

**unique participants** engaged with Campus Recreation facilities during the academic year.

**32,020**

**total attendances** across 2,117 Residence Life programs during 2025–26.

*The ASD Transition Program helps newly enrolled students with autism spectrum disorder build the skills and connections needed to engage successfully in college life. Through structured meetings with a Disability Specialist, students strengthen habits around communication, organization, academics, and accessing campus resources during their first semester at NEBRASKA.*





# RELATIONSHIPS

## Grow Your Communities

### Support Where Students Live

Created by Student Advocacy & Support in partnership with Residence Life, the Residential Case Management Program strengthens relationships between students and support staff by bringing help directly into the residence halls.

Through the program, a dedicated case manager responds to student-of-concern reports involving residents, managing elevated and critical cases while partnering with residence directors on mild and moderate concerns. Meeting students where they live makes support more accessible and helps build stronger connections between students and the people available to assist them.

The program also creates a more coordinated network of care across Student Advocacy & Support and Residence Life, helping staff respond earlier and more collaboratively when students need assistance.

By centering personal connection and accessible support, Residential Case Management helps students build trusted relationships they can turn to during challenging moments.

**100%**

**of Women+ Strength participants** finished the program confident or very confident in the gym.

**16,000+**

**student interactions** took place across Big Red Welcome programming.

**18,099**

**intentional conversations** connected Residence Life staff with 98% of residents during 2025–26.



*The inaugural ASUN Leadership Summit brought nearly 150 student leaders together to exchange ideas and connect with peers and university leaders. The event strengthened relationships between ASUN and Recognized Student Organization presidents while creating new opportunities for collaboration across campus.*



## POWER IN PRACTICE

For Ashlyn Bspalec, NEBRASKA became more than the place where she earned a degree. It became the place where she learned how to ask for help, find her place and better understand the person she wanted to become.

Through Campus Recreation and Orchesis Dance Club, a recognized student organization, Ashlyn found spaces where she felt connected to campus. Within Campus Recreation, her work in Injury Prevention and Care gave her practical experience tied to her future career. Later, she joined the Member Services team, where she found another community of coworkers and mentors who became an important part of her NEBRASKA experience.

That support mattered when college became more challenging. During her junior year, Ashlyn recognized that she was struggling academically. She advocated for herself by connecting with Services for Students with Disabilities and receiving accommodations that helped her continue moving forward. At other points in college, she also turned to CAPS, peer support and tutoring when she needed help.

Over time, Ashlyn's idea of success expanded. It came to include not only academic progress, but also the confidence to seek help and the relationships that helped her move forward. It meant being willing to step into new opportunities and recognizing how much those experiences could shape who she became.

As she prepared for graduate school, the people she had met through NEBRASKA continued to show up. They encouraged her, wrote recommendations and helped her balance work with her academic priorities.

"My work outside the classroom not only gave me practical experience for what I wanted to do later in life, but it set me up to be a better person," Ashlyn said. "It allowed me to connect with people, learn from people and come into who I was. Really, what I'll take with me is the person that I became and the way I learned how to be in the world as an adult from those people and those experiences."

Now pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy, Ashlyn carries those experiences with her into what comes next.



Scan to watch Ashlyn's full-length interview.

“

*When I was a junior, I found that I was struggling quite a bit, which wasn't really like me. As I started to talk to people, they suggested I look into getting accommodations. I advocated for myself in that way, and it was probably one of the most pivotal things I could have done for myself to continue to be successful through school and graduation.”*

– Ashlyn Bspalec



# 2025-2026 BY THE NUMBERS

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>28.5%</b><br>increase in visitors to Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center spaces. | <b>2,042,965</b><br>meals served by UNL Dining, an increase of 163,583 from the previous year.          | <b>1,267</b><br>students supported by Student Advocacy and Support through its caseload.                                 |
| <b>63,221</b><br>items distributed by the Husker Pantry.                            | <b>\$4.1 million+</b><br>in revenue generated by Conference Services during summer 2025.                | <b>12,000+</b><br>guests welcomed by Conference Services in summer 2026, a 17% increase from the previous summer.        |
| <b>150</b><br>years of Fraternity and Sorority Life celebrated at NEBRASKA.         | <b>3,422</b><br>calls answered by the Husker Home Hotline from parents, students and community members. | <b>\$1.7 million</b><br>in 3,200 payments processed by Business Services in support of Recognized Student Organizations. |
| <b>1,250,980</b><br>meals ordered through UNL Dining mobile ordering.               | <b>2,229</b><br>exams proctored by Services for Students with Disabilities.                             | <b>1,859</b><br>clients served by CAPS through 8,446 counseling sessions, including 175 walk-in crisis appointments.     |

# Interested in supporting our students?

[go.unl.edu/support-our-students](https://go.unl.edu/support-our-students)



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