

# CONNECTING LEARNING WITH LIFE

2023 IMPACT REPORT



STUDENT AFFAIRS



## Student Affairs Departments

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN)

Big Red Resilience & Well-Being

Campus Recreation

Center for Advocacy, Response & Education (CARE)

Children's Center

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

Fraternity & Sorority Life

Gender & Sexuality Center

Nebraska Unions

Services for Students with Disabilities

Student Advocacy & Support

Student Affairs Business Services

Student Affairs Marketing & Communications

Student Conduct and Community Standards

Student Leadership, Involvement & Community Engagement (SLICE)

Student Legal Services

TRIO Programs

University Health Center

University Housing & Dining Services  
(Residence Life, Facilities Operations,  
Dining Services)



Colleagues,

I am pleased to share the 2023 Student Affairs divisional impact report with you. This report offers an in-depth look into how the Division of Student Affairs creates a student experience that provides activities and events that enhance student success, supports programs and services aimed at developing healthy students and communities, and aligns with our mission to connect learning with life.

The stories highlighted within demonstrate the transformative role Student Affairs plays in unlocking our students' potential. You'll connect with stories of students who think big, face challenges directly, and inspire positive change. You'll discover Student Affairs programs nurturing a sense of belonging and inclusivity. You'll experience the powerful impact of the deep connections formed through guided peer support.

I am confident the division's cornerstones – lead, learn, include, and engage – are positively shaping our students' lives and positioning them to make a difference in the communities where we live. At Nebraska, that is how we connect learning with life.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Dee Dee Anderson*

Dr. Dee Dee Anderson

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



# LEAD

*Huskers will shape the future by embracing big, bold ideas, accepting challenges and inspiring positive change.*

Leadership is the ability to motivate, persuade and develop common purposes among others to promote change. Guided by self-awareness, Huskers will find innovative ways to shape the future. Leadership is inherent within all individuals and groups and includes a multitude of styles and patterns to inspire positive change within themselves and their communities.



## *Resiliency, Leadership, and the Support to Persist*

Starting his first year at UNL would prove to be a challenge for Trey Lamkins. The news of his mother's Stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis a year prior to enrolling at UNL made this time for Trey emotionally challenging. "Entering UNL, my biggest fear revolved around my mother's health," admits Lamkins.

It wasn't until an encounter with Reshell Ray, associate director for programs & events in the Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement (SLICE) office, that things started to turn around for Lamkins.

"Freshman year, I met Reshell in a class," Lamkins recalls. "Reshell thought she recognized me but was mistaken because everyone in the class wore masks. Later, this chance meeting led to an opportunity she offered me with SLICE, focusing on event planning on campus."

Lamkins's first event working with the SLICE office was the Ag Olympics, a day where students



participated in numerous ag-based activities on UNL's East Campus. Working with Reshell and the office provided Trey with more than just how to plan and coordinate the day operationally. "With Reshell's support, I learned what student involvement really is. Through my experiences at UNL, I've been presented with numerous opportunities that have helped me grow as a leader and gain more skills. I'm passing that knowledge to my peers and teaching others about SLICE. Working with Reshell and SLICE, I get to see the diversity of the campus and engage with people with different backgrounds. I experience that differently than inside a classroom."

With Reshell and the support of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Trey navigated an emotional first semester, only to be diagnosed with a personal health challenge himself in the second semester.

After his freshman year, Lamkins started to see the success of his hard work. Now a junior, Lamkins is a William H. Thompson Scholar, was named to the Dean's list in the Spring of 2023, and was appointed Vice President of the CASNR Student Advisory Board. However, right before starting his junior year, Trey's mother finally succumbed to her cancer.

Through the support of Student Affairs' SLICE office and CASNR, Trey has persevered and continued at UNL. "Reshell's involvement in my life is why I'm still here. The support I found here kept me going. It's made me realize I'm not alone."



*"After my initiation in the fall of 2022, I took on significant leadership responsibilities within my chapter and the Multicultural Greek Council. My involvement in the Greek Week committee showed me what it takes to be a leader, not only within my chapter but also in the community. Now, I'm spreading that wisdom I've learned to new members by providing guidance and support when they're ready to become leaders."*

**MONIQUE MILLER**

Pre-law child youth, and family studies and communication studies double major

**21,174**

attendees at  
SLICE-sponsored events

**2,085**

student volunteers

**11%**

Multicultural Greek community  
holds a 4.0 GPA

**12,000**

events hosted by the Nebraska  
Unions across all facilities

**80,915**

packages distributed to on-campus  
residents by University Housing  
Desk Assistants.

# LEARN

*Huskers will seek broader viewpoints, actively reflect and apply learning to solve complex problems.*

Learning is a continual process of self-exploration and seeking out multiple perspectives in order to develop personal principles, values, and a sense of purpose that will guide one's life. Huskers will think analytically, expand their viewpoints, thoughtfully reflect and develop a lifelong curiosity for new ideas. Huskers will courageously explore new possibilities and be positive risk-takers to solve complex problems of the future.



## *TRIO SSS: A foundation for a passion for research.*

As a senior Biological Systems Engineering major from Baghdad, Iraq, Furqan Mahdi is developing a passion for research.

“Since I’ve joined UNL’s First Year Research Experience (FYRE), I have developed a passion for research - and now, I actually want to pursue research as a career,” shares Mahdi.

Central to Furqan’s success with the FYRE program and undergraduate research has been the support from TRIO Student Support Services. This program provided her with the necessary tools and mentorship to navigate her academic journey with confidence.

“TRIO offers a lot of tutoring programs for STEM courses. In my freshman and sophomore years, whenever I had an issue in a math or a science class, I always stopped by the TRIO office and got some help from the tutors,” she recalls.



TRIO Programs at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln are federally-funded outreach programs offering academic, social, cultural, and financial support for first-generation and underserved scholars. The office engages with students from middle school through college to help them achieve their educational goals by completing a college degree and exploring advanced education.

Scholars in the TRIO program receive support like personal advising and mentoring, peer-to-peer mentoring, tutoring, financial aid and financial literacy education, and access to programs that build community and create campus connections.

In order to be eligible for the TRIO SSS program, participants must complete an application process. In addition to the application process, students must meet requirements for financial need, be a first-generation college student, or have a documented disability.

TRIO scholars are also eligible to participate in research opportunities, namely the FYRE or First Year Research Experience program. “Through the TRIO program, I was connected with Dr. Marianna Burks. She was my education specialist and helped me apply to the FYRE program,” explains Furqan.

An additional advantage of the program is that it provides opportunities for students to attend conferences. “Last year, as a junior, TRIO funded me fully to attend the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists conference in Anaheim, California,” added Mahdi.

“Because of TRIO, I was able to develop all of my research skills. And, without TRIO, I honestly don’t think I would have made it this far.”

*“Coming from a small town in South Dakota, before starting at UNL, the campus was extremely overwhelming. But, I was familiar with the TRIO Scholars program, and my academic advisor encouraged me to apply, and I was accepted into the program. I also met a few students who were TRIO scholars from a different program on campus. Because of the support from the TRIO Student Support Services program, I was able to come to campus and be comfortable in my surroundings. TRIO faculty also helped me start the First Year Research Experience program, which led me to apply for the McNair Scholars program.”*

**FAITHLEIGH PODZIMEK**

Junior Anthropology Major, McNair Scholar



**350**

Number of students in TRIO SSS

**6**

TRIO SSS Tutors for  
Math & Science

Nearly

**1,000**

students in all  
TRIO programs

**\$6,000**

provided by ASUN to student  
organizations in Equity Grants

**5,000**

students attended  
Cultural Cuisine Nights

**442**

cases heard and resolved  
by Student Conduct and  
Community Standards

# INCLUDE

*Huskers will embrace inclusion to strengthen and build communities centered on belonging.*

Inclusion demonstrates that all people are valued, respected and equitable. This entails developing and supporting diverse, equitable, and inclusive communities that foster openness, thoughtfulness and respect. Huskers believe in affirming and validating the experiences of community members while advocating for themselves and others.



## *Bringing Inclusivity to the Forefront of the College Experience*

Persistence, determination, and follow-through. For Sophie Hill, that's what it took to fulfill her vision of making campus a more inclusive place.

As a freshman enrolled at UNL's Raikes School, Sophie pushed to start UNL Unified, a recognized student organization that brings together individuals with and without intellectual disabilities to participate in intramurals through Campus Recreation and other social activities.

"The process of starting an RSO really helped me learn about pushing boundaries," Hill explained. "It was about perseverance and finding those people who will help figure out how we could make this happen. It's all about having a vision and following through with it."

Sophie's determination was rewarded when the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was recognized by Special Olympics Nebraska as the first Banner Unified Champion college in Nebraska. To achieve National Banner Recognition Status, schools must incorporate and sustain



ten standards, including unified sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole-school engagement.

As a recognized student organization through Student Affairs' Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement office and advised by Campus Recreation, UNL Unified is guided by a mission to "spread awareness and acceptance of disabilities and individuals with disabilities with a vision to create a more inclusive environment through unified sports and activities at the collegiate level for UNL students and athletes with intellectual or physical disabilities."

"UNL Unified has created a community on campus that has a place for everyone. I think that's one of the greatest things about it – we're more like a family," described Hill. "Some athletes travel over an hour to participate every week – and every week, they are excited to see everyone. They bring their positive energy to campus."

"Throughout my four years here, I've seen the campus grow into a more inclusive space. A place where I've been able to share the lessons of inclusion – respect, patience, kindness, and joy – with my peers on campus. While also having the opportunity to bring inclusive activities to individuals who wouldn't get to participate in them after high school."

"I am so very fortunate to be able to work with everyone at UNL and our athletes from the community who make our campus an inclusive place."



*"Being a doctoral student is stressful. It's rewarding, but it's very stressful. So, any support that I can get is certainly welcomed. With two kids who don't understand the demands of being a doctoral student, any support is appreciated. When I found out about the Holidays for Little Huskers\* program, I signed up immediately and was surprised at the level of generosity that sponsors gave our family. They even provided me with a gift, which I was so thankful for. It really was a joy and helped me alleviate some of the stressors that happen around the holiday when money is limited."*

**GENESE CLARK**

Ph.D. Student, Global Family Health and Wellbeing

\* Holidays for Little Huskers is operated by the Gender & Sexuality Center

**5,101**

participants in intramurals

**1,297**

participants in club sports

**1,184**

students had registered accommodations with SSD

**240**

students with registered accommodations with SSD graduated in 2022-23

**108**

students utilized Gender & Sexuality Center's Lavender Closet

# ENGAGE

*Huskers will engage with their communities and embrace holistic well-being.*

When individuals display high levels of behavioral, emotional and cognitive engagement, they are more likely to excel academically, form a stronger sense of connection with the university and have a more positive sense of social-emotional well-being. Huskers will be socially responsible stewards, advocate for sustainable use of resources, and take ownership when actions harm communities.



## *Peer to Peer Awareness Creating Advocacy*

As a junior and Husker CARE Peer Educator, Penh Pheak has developed a passion for peer-to-peer connection. Pehn and her colleagues host in-person Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence (SARV) workshops for all first-year students at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

“We talk to first-year students about sexual and relationship violence and its impact. We talk with them about campus resources and really just let them know that we care about them as a part of the UNL community.”

Sometimes, when presenting a session to students, Penh notices her peers realize that the material presented is an actual situation they or their friends have experienced. “It’s a realization that what we’re presenting is actually happening to them, and it’s not okay. That these students actually need our help and the help of campus resources.”

Operated by the Center for Advocacy, Response and Education, the Huskers CARE Peer Educators program is comprised of undergraduate students trained to raise awareness and



educate fellow students about power-based violence, university policies, and resources available on campus and in the community. Students selected as peer educators receive 32 hours of paid training with professional staff prior to facilitating workshops.

“In workshops, we often talk about how our words matter. How causal references to things we say in passing can actually impact others.” Penh now champions the importance of word choice, emphasizing the impact casual misuse can have on other students.

Furthermore, Penh has learned how to engage others during her workshops. It’s often not just about presenting facts but transforming perspectives. In some cases, Penh will use humor to break the ice before transitioning to more serious topics.

Penh explains that a more fundamental approach sometimes works with students – It’s free and confidential. “How amazing is it that UNL cares about us and provides these services for free?”

In addition to engaging with her peers, Penh gets excited seeing students approach at the end of a session, ready to contribute as advocates and peer educators themselves.

“I love seeing students coming to us at the end of our session and asking us, hey, how can I get involved? What can I do to become like you and make such a positive impact on my peers?”



**130+**

Number of SARV prevention workshops given by Husker Peer Educators

**1,800+**

Number of students reached through Husker Peer Educator efforts

**34,588**

individual conversations by Resident Assistants with residents through intentional interactions.

**71,293**

items provided to our community by Husker Pantry in 2022-23.

**11,063**

individual sessions provided by Counseling & Psychological Services in 2022-23.

**581**

students experiencing an unexpected crisis that interrupted their academic experience received help from the Student Advocacy & Support office.



A vibrant outdoor student fair with numerous booths and people. In the background, a sign for "Christian Grads Fellowship" is visible. A red semi-transparent banner is overlaid across the center of the image, containing the main text and website URL. The scene is filled with students in casual attire, some with backpacks, engaged in conversations and activities at various tables.

*Thousands of students – one story.  
Connecting learning with life.*

*[studentaffairs.unl.edu](http://studentaffairs.unl.edu)*

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