

STUDENT LIFE IMPACT REPORT

2023-2024



STUDENT LIFE



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Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the 2024 Division of Student Life Impact Report. As we look back on the past academic year, we do so under a new division name. A name that reflects the evolution and expansion of a new mission and vision.



This year's Impact Report highlights the stories and achievements that define our work. You will read about our initiatives in advocacy, affordability, belonging, and learning—key themes that underscore our strategic plan.

As you explore this report, I hope you gain a deeper understanding of the lives we have touched and the significance of our work. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and these stories remind us of the bright future we're building for every Husker.

Thank you for reading,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Dee Anderson".

Dr. Dee Dee Anderson

Vice Chancellor for Student Life

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.

STUDENT LIFE DEPARTMENTS

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN)

Campus Recreation

Center for Advocacy, Response & Education (CARE)

Children's Center

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

Fraternity & Sorority Life

Gender & Sexuality Center

Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center

Nebraska Unions

Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services

Services for Students with Disabilities

Student Advocacy & Support

Student Life Business Services

Student Life 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)

CHAMPIONING STUDENT NEEDS THROUGH ADVOCACY

ADVOCACY





While many students navigate the challenges of college independently, others require additional support to remain enrolled.

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) has concentrated on advocating for these students through formal letters of support, ensuring they receive the necessary resources to continue their education. During the 2023-2024 academic year, 109 letters were issued to assist students in securing accommodations, appealing scholarships, and accessing various support services across campus.

To aid students returning to school after significant mental health challenges, Student Advocacy & Support has collaborated with Bryan Psychiatry to enhance communication between faculty, staff, and the students affected by absences. This partnership facilitates timely notifications and creates a smoother re-entry process for students. These efforts underscore our commitment to providing critical support to our most vulnerable students.



Services for Students with Disabilities saw a 17% increase in registered students, rising from 1,184 in 2022-2023 to 1,384 in 2023-2024.

3,164

Husker Pantry provided essential resources to 3,164 students, distributing a total of 115,001 items.



Student Advocacy & Support experienced a 55% increase in the number of students served, rising from 454 students in 2022-2023 to 705 students in 2023-2024.

“When I started college, I didn’t realize that Nebraska is one of the largest resettlement hubs for refugees per capita, or that Lincoln has such a significant refugee population.

Being from Lincoln, I’m deeply passionate about helping people in my community. Through a recognized student organization, Medical Students United with Neighbors Across America (MUNA), I was placed at Lincoln Family Services, where we identified immigrant and resettled families in need of food. We receive donations year-round from students, fundraisers, and other campus organizations to meet these needs.

Gaining more experience working with the refugee community has had a profound impact on me. As a future physician, I hope to use these skills to continue supporting refugee populations.”

HANNAH RAY

Senior Biological Sciences Major



AFFORDABILITY

SUPPORTING STUDENT LEADERS: DRIVING DOWN COSTS



Recognizing the critical role that hall governments and councils play in creating an engaging and supportive community, students in leadership positions received a Leadership Credit on their Housing & Dining bills this year, providing up to \$3,200 in financial relief.

This focus on affordability extended across Student Life operations, where efforts to enhance efficiency included expanding mobile dining services—a strategy that reduces staffing needs while improving student satisfaction.

Student Life units are actively exploring external revenue sources to maintain a comprehensive student experience at an affordable price.



First-year students who lived in residence halls during the 2022-2023 academic year had a retention rate of 85.4%, compared to 78.8% for those who did not reside in a residence hall.

\$4M

Conference Services generated over \$4 million in external revenue, helping to minimize increases to cost of attendance.



Student Life worked collaboratively across the division to establish consistent student wages, reducing pay disparities among nearly 1,600 student employees.

“I started working as a Welcome Desk Ambassador in June 2023, and I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an amazing team. Knowing that I’m appreciated and respected by my coworkers and manager motivates me to be a better ambassador and person.

One of my goals was to become more assertive and outgoing, and I’ve had many opportunities to achieve that by interacting with strangers and presenting projects in front of my coworkers. Before working at the Nebraska Union, I never knew I could love a job this much. My coworkers make every shift enjoyable, and I look forward to talking with them each day. I know they’ll always have my back, and I’ll always have theirs.

Working for the Nebraska Union has undoubtedly been one of the best decisions I made in college.”

ESTHERCHO
Junior Pre-nursing Major

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

BELONGING





Campus Recreation (CREC) is committed to building a strong sense of belonging among students. Defying national trends, CREC moved beyond day trips and expanded its overnight trips through Outdoor Adventures, to better meet student needs and strengthen community building.

One example is the “Bisons and Waterfalls” experiential course, offered in partnership with the Platte Basin Timelapse Project during fall break. The trip took students to the Niobrara River, to engage with ranchers, park rangers, and ecologists for a deeper understanding of the human impact on the land and the ability to sustain the ecosystem.



Student Life welcomed 3,500 students to campus at the Chancellor’s BBQ.



2,554 students volunteered over 12,500 hours, contributing an estimated economic impact of more than \$400,000 to the community.



SLICE events recorded over 26,000 check-ins throughout the year.

“In my two years as Panhellenic President, UNL Fraternity & Sorority Life has provided me with a strong sense of community and belonging. I’ve had the privilege of meeting numerous members of the community, collaborating with other council leaders, and being mentored by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life team.

These experiences have introduced me to people in Lincoln who allow me to be my truest self and challenge me to become the best version of myself. This sense of belonging has not only transformed my college experience but also helped me build lasting friendships, a solid support system, and an environment where we all feel welcome.”

HALEY GOSCH
Senior Communications Studies Major

BE THE CHANGE

WE Believe YOU

SILENCE
I ~~am~~ you matter
YES

You are not your trauma

SAY YES TO CONSENT

Consent ALWAYS

BELIEVE
LIVES

Denim DAY 2024

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Learning is a continuous journey within Student Life, beginning from the moment students arrive on campus. Numerous initiatives lay the groundwork for student education and campus safety.

Fraternity & Sorority Life’s CHOICES program introduces new members to critical topics such as alcohol abuse and harm reduction within their communities.

The Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE) further supports student learning through the Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence (SARV) education program, which enhances awareness of sexual and relationship violence, as well as available resources both on campus and in the broader community.

Looking ahead, Student Life will implement the Husker Student POWER framework to bring greater intentionality to out-of-classroom learning experiences, further enriching student development.



TRIO programs, which supports first-generation students, successfully increased retention rates from 80% to 86% during the 2023-2024 academic year.



CARE Peer Mentors conducted 158 SARV workshops for 2,912 students, reflecting a 61% increase from the previous year.

125

125 peer facilitators trained for the CHOICES program within the Fraternity & Sorority Life community.

“Being involved with CARE throughout my undergraduate career has made me more empathetic, confident, and hardworking. Through the SARV program, I realized my passion for advocating for survivors of power-based violence, became more confident in my public speaking abilities, and fostered a positive community on campus.

After graduation, I will be starting a position as a research assistant at the Medical University of South Carolina studying intimate partner violence for the next two years before applying for a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. I will always be grateful for the skills and relationships I developed through CARE and the SARV program, and I can’t wait to use the knowledge I gained in my future career.”

EMILY HALL

Senior Criminology & Criminal Justice and Psychology Dual Major

ON THE HORIZON

HUSKER STUDENT POWER

Starting in Fall 2024, Husker Student POWER (Purpose, Ownership, Well-Being, Engagement, and Relationships) will guide the student experience, encouraging students to engage intentionally in diverse campus opportunities.

This University-wide initiative delivers a clear message about the value of varied experiences and how to maximize time at UNL. Students will experience a streamlined, collaborative effort for their success by having a common language across campus. Student Life plays a key role, offering essential opportunities and fostering meaningful experiences for students.

WELL-BEING COLLECTIVE

Student well-being is a campus-wide priority that goes beyond the efforts of any single office or individual. It is crucial to student success and retention.

Understanding this, Student Life is launching the Well-being Collective in Fall 2024, bringing together various campus units to provide holistic support for students. In its inaugural year, the collective will focus on educating the campus community about this new approach while addressing key dimensions of student well-being, such as financial literacy.

STUDENT ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

Graduate students are integral to UNL's mission, yet their unique circumstances can often leave them unsure of which resources are available to them.

To address this gap, Student Advocacy & Support (SAS) has taken proactive steps to build strong partnerships with Graduate Studies, ensuring that graduate students receive the support and resources they need to succeed, even in times of crisis.

A key example of this collaboration is SAS's ability to facilitate emergency housing in partnership with Graduate Studies and University Housing, providing students in need with a safe and comfortable place to stay.

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INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING
OUR STUDENTS?



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