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Enhance entrepreneurship through curriculum, mentorship, opportunities, connections, resources and inspiration.

To be known as the nexus of entrepreneurial resources.
"Our Center for Entrepreneurship assists students across the university to develop the skills to start, operate and grow a business. Through competitions, courses, workshops and more, the center helps create future business leaders and businesses, and serves as a central hub for the business community."

Kathy Farrell, James Jr. and Susan Stuart Endowed Dean of the College of Business
I am delighted to present to you the highlights and accomplishments of another remarkable year at the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship. The 2022-23 academic year marked a significant milestone as we returned to normal operating procedures following the challenging period of the pandemic. The palpable excitement among our community members upon reuniting on campus was truly invigorating.

Throughout the year, we witnessed substantial growth and progress, which I attribute to the exceptional efforts and dedication of our talented team. I am pleased to announce the additions of Mallory Krenk and Amanda Metcalf to the Center for Entrepreneurship team. Since joining us, they have seamlessly integrated into our community and played instrumental roles in managing our continuous growth in enrollment, co-curricular activities and community engagement.

One of our notable achievements this year was expanding our reach not only across campus but also within the broader Nebraska entrepreneurship ecosystem. We successfully launched our Entrepreneurship Fellows program, enabling us to establish connections and collaborations with various stakeholders in the ecosystem. This program provided valuable opportunities for students by providing them the opportunity to learn from and connect with area entrepreneurs, founders, service providers and innovators.

Furthermore, I am thrilled to share that we experienced a remarkable increase of over 10% in enrollment in our entrepreneurship courses. This growth is a testament to the quality of education and the value we provide to our students. It also signifies the growing interest and recognition of entrepreneurship as a vital skillset in today’s dynamic world.

Our Husker Venture Fund also shone brightly this year, as they emerged victorious in their regional Venture Capital Investment Competition and secured an impressive third place in the Global Venture Capital Competition. This outstanding achievement underscores the excellence of our students’ entrepreneurial acumen and their ability to compete at the highest level on a global scale.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, it is crucial to acknowledge the unwavering support and contributions from each and every one of you in our community. Together, we built a vibrant and inclusive environment that fosters innovation, collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit. I am immensely grateful for your commitment and dedication to our mission.

Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans to further expand our impact and continue nurturing the entrepreneurial ecosystem within Nebraska. We remain committed to providing exceptional education, mentorship and resources to our students, faculty and entrepreneurs, equipping them with the skills and mindset necessary to drive positive change in the world.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has made this past year a resounding success. Let us continue to build upon our achievements, inspire one another and create a future filled with endless possibilities.

Go Big Red,

Samuel Nelson
OUR APPROACH

LEARN BY DOING
At our core lies a firm commitment to experiential learning. We provide our students with a multitude of co-curricular experiences, enabling them to put into practice what they learn in the classroom.

BROAD SCOPE, SOLE FOCUS
Our center serves the entire student body at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, but our focus remains: enhancing entrepreneurship through curriculum, mentorship, opportunities, connections, resources and inspiration.

ECOSYSTEM ENGAGEMENT
By engaging with organizations and individuals in the entrepreneurship ecosystem, we create meaningful opportunities for students to learn from those who have been in their shoes, develop invaluable networks and learn to navigate the complexities of entrepreneurship. It not only enriches their educational and entrepreneurial journey, but cultivates a passion for making a positive impact within their communities.
The Center for Entrepreneurship meets students where they are and helps them discover which resources are right for them. Our vast connection of partners across campus provide endless opportunities for students to grow their idea, connect with other students to form partnerships and gain valuable experiences.

- College of Engineering
- School of Computing
- Department of Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design
- Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program
- Food Processing Center
- Jacht Agency
- Jeffrey S. Raikes School for Computer Science and Management
- Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Extension
- Nebraska Innovation Campus
- Nebraska Innovation Studio
- Nebraska I-Corps
- NIC Biotech Connector
- NUtech Ventures
- Rural Prosperity Nebraska
- Weibling Entrepreneurship Clinic

**COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT**

Lindsay Thomsen, director of business development for the Center for Entrepreneurship, led a two-part workshop series for Design Studio students this spring covering topics like grit and the entrepreneurial mindset.

We collaborated with NUtech Ventures, the technology commercialization affiliate of the University of Nebraska, to host workshops for students, faculty, staff and community members on topics such as progressing an idea to a startup and the business model canvas.
$75K
granted to students and student-run businesses in Center for Entrepreneurship competitions

1,275
students enrolled in entrepreneurship (ENTR) courses during the 2022-23 academic year

61
Entrepreneurship Community Fellows named to provide valuable learning experiences for students

10
colleges represented by students participating in center-hosted curriculum and competitions

4.82
average end of semester rating for Center for Entrepreneurship faculty (on a 5.00 scale)

304
competitors in Center for Entrepreneurship-hosted competitions

24%
percent of students enrolled in ENTR courses who study outside the College of Business

50
guest speakers in ENTR courses

75
community members who volunteered their time and knowledge to judge our competitions

27
Campus Fellows named to connect entrepreneurial activity occurring across different colleges and areas at the university
INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The Innovation Challenge is a test of students’ entrepreneurial creativity. It gives students the opportunity to meet new collaborators and friends while attempting to ideate and execute the best solution to a surprise problem presented to participants on the first day.

The challenge, held in September, is the first of four signature events hosted by the Center for Entrepreneurship, and serves as a building block for the events throughout the rest of the academic year.

This year’s challenge was to construct and design an “egg drop” container or device that will prevent an uncooked egg from breaking when dropped from the College of Business building. Three teams succeeded in the challenge:

First Place
Hadleigh Sueker, Makenna Stanton, Evan Wilson, Conner Gokie

Second Place
Pedro Galvao, Kyran Thomas, Matthew Duhs, Link Tran

Third Place
Conor Maguire, Will Geary, Ethan Zaborowski, Lydia Hoffman
The time crunch really made us think and work hard. I now have the skill set to be able to not only present but also create a business plan and get my business off the ground.

Vanessa Cruz-Alatriste, advertising and public relations major
The 3-2-1 Quick Pitch Competition is an annual event where students showcase their entrepreneurial, communication and presentation skills through a short “quick pitch” proposal for a new business venture. Competitors have 3 minutes 2 pitch 1 idea.

We welcomed 98 students from eight different colleges and three area high schools to Morrill Hall on November 3. The historic and unconventional environment for business pitches helps simulate an “elevator pitch” and pushes students out of their comfort zone.

No pitch decks, no notecards, no props – just pure communication and storytelling to a panel of area investors, entrepreneurs, business owners and ecosystem members.
The 3-2-1 Quick Pitch is one of many instances where students can receive valuable feedback on their idea and build their network. Thirty-nine area investors, entrepreneurs, business owners and ecosystem members helped deliver that feedback.
NEW VENTURE COMPETITION

One of the longest-running business plan competitions in the world, the New Venture Competition provides students from across University of Nebraska–Lincoln city and east campuses the opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial skills and compete for $55,000 in total prizes.

"The New Venture Competition provides student entrepreneurs an amazing experiential learning opportunity that requires them to demonstrate creativity, business acumen, critical thinking and communication skills. The competition also enables students to expand their network by interacting with multiple competitors and judges," said Sam Nelson, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and associate professor of practice in management.

To help students prepare for the competition, we hosted workshops on the many aspects of a business plan, provided one-on-one consulting and facilitated practice pitch sessions.

"Everybody in the center is different in their own unique way, and it plays out very well in a chorus of different voices. Each of them helped me hone my business idea, implement some of the more strategic parts of the business and put it into practice and make sure I’m headed in the right direction," said Langdon Kohn, 2023 New Venture competitor and senior management major.

On April 4, 98 competitors and over 50 judges and timers gathered to kick-off the 36th annual competition. After two rounds of bracket-style competition, four finalist teams earned their spot in the final round on April 6.

The New Venture Competition is a stimulus for economic impact and job creation.

Many successful area businesses got their start when their founders attended the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and competed in the New Venture Competition. From the winning idea in the first competition in 1987, Venel, and Hudl in 2007, to more recent: Nobl, Pawlytics, Stahla Services and Oak Barn Beef, the New Venture Competition proves to be a great place to gain traction and critical feedback.

"I’ve done a lot of these pitches, and the judging at this one has been the best I’ve ever experienced." 2023 New Venture competitor

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Majors represented from 7 colleges

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Majors</th>
<th>Preparation contact hours</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>25</td>
<td>351</td>
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The Thomas G. Guy Startup Team Award made it possible for us to award $5,000 to two teams for having the best collaboration and organization. Both teams were nominated by their professor and Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Dr. Sam Nelson.

"Both teams worked collaboratively in class and took advantage of outside resources to prepare for the competition. They played to each other’s strengths which was evident both in the preparation and presentation."

**First Place, Dyslexico**
$15,000
A grammar correction tool built by dyslexics for dyslexics.
dyslexi.co
Grace Clausen and Bridget Peterkin

**Second Place, InforMedic**
$12,500
A compliant application built for fast and accurate underwriting.
getinformedic.com
Tan Phan and Pranav Rajan

**Third Place, Beacon**
$10,000
Technology that makes the bridge inspection process more efficient.
Maci Wilson

**Fourth Place, Pat on Tap**
$7,500
Nebraska’s first mobile bar and photo booth.
patontap.com
Abby Miller

Street Eats
Brennon Overbeek, Paige Perrone, Jacob Ensz

Toolbox
Gabe Sehnert, Dilya Ahmadbekova, Danae Contino
Since its inception in 2021, Husker Venture Fund has been an exemplar of experiential learning. In this hands-on experience, members of the fund manage the investment process from start to finish.

Each semester, potential members go through an eight-week, hands-on curriculum to learn more about venture capital and the startup ecosystem in Nebraska. At the conclusion of the bootcamp in November, 23 students were chosen to be a part of the second cohort of associates.

"Venture capital is well-known for its exclusivity and closed doors, and we want to change that," said Maria Heyen, managing director of the fund. "We are intentionally bringing in students who have typically been excluded from the world of venture capital."

The immersive, student-led experience continues to attract students from across campus. Twenty-one percent of the fall 2022 cohort study outside the College of Business with majors ranging from mechanical engineering to computer science.

The fund addresses a funding gap that exists in the state of Nebraska.

"The Husker Venture Fund offers people a shot they didn’t have before, which could be transformational for the state. It presents a win-win situation for our students and community," said Sam Nelson, faculty advisor for the fund.

Members of the fund elected three new managing directors this spring (listed right).

Impacting multiple stakeholders, the Husker Venture Fund fills a gap in Nebraska’s venture investment chain for early-stage startups, while at the same time, provides UNL students invaluable opportunities to engage with the venture capital process.

Kathy Farrell, James Jr. and Susan Stuart Endowed Dean of the College of Business
A team of six Husker Venture Fund members competed in their first in-person Venture Capital Investment Competition this spring. The team earned a first place finish at the regional competition against Tufts University, St. Mary’s University, New York University, University of Oregon and Dartmouth College.

Out of the 47 undergraduate teams that competed in regional competitions, eight winners moved on to compete in the Global Venture Capital Investment Competition. Husker Venture Fund placed third at the global finals.
Women+ in Entrepreneurship was created to encourage women and other underserved communities to bring their entrepreneurial endeavors to fruition.

Kelsie Caven, senior Clifton Builders management major from Savage, Minnesota, co-founded the organization in the Spring of 2022. She, along with her executive team members, envision the organization as a way for aspiring female entrepreneurs to grow and build connections in the Lincoln community.

Registered student organizations give students an opportunity to lead a group of their peers, foster community, and, in this context, connect with area founders, entrepreneurs and innovators. The connections for students are instrumental to their future.

Mallory Krenk, Student Engagement & Recruitment Coordinator
Established by Janna Ronert, ’87, the Husker Hustle Scholarship provides two aspiring or current student entrepreneurs with $2,500 to further their entrepreneurial journey.

After a review of all applications, two students were chosen as recipients of the 2023 Husker Hustle Scholarship: Carolina Barraza, sophomore accounting major, and Abby Miller, senior animal science major. Janna, a Nebraska native and University of Nebraska–Lincoln alum, noted their compelling backstories and perseverance displayed in their applications.

"I chose Carolina and Abby because I could tell they were entrepreneurs at heart," said Janna. Students were asked to describe their entrepreneurial journey and submit a video presentation highlighting their business or business idea. "Lastly, and most importantly, both have an idea that I believe could be scaled and developed into a real, profitable business."

Carolina Barraza
Sophomore Accounting major from Courtland, Kansas
Carolina is an Investment Intern at Nebraska Angels and was selected as an associate for Husker Venture Fund this spring.

Abby Miller
Senior Animal Science major from Mead, Nebraska
Abby is the founder of Pat on Tap - Nebraska's first mobile bar and photo booth. Her business earned her a fourth place finish at the 2023 New Venture Competition.
We want students to leave their time here with more confidence in who they are, feeling better equipped to handle the uncertainties that await them and a clear idea about how to solve problems. This class provided all these things and more to the students, and in doing so, it was a course that beautifully embodied what the Center for Entrepreneurship is all about.

Andrew Hanna

POP-UP COURSES

Entrepreneurship looks different for everyone. Through an innovative approach to learning, students can now choose their own path in their entrepreneurship education at Nebraska.

Each semester, faculty in the Center for Entrepreneurship teach “pop-up” courses — one- or two-credit courses with more specialized topics. During the 2022-23 academic year, we developed and taught courses on design thinking, pitching both yourself and your ideas, building entrepreneurial teams, entrepreneurial creativity and improv skills for business and life.

Entrepreneurship is not one-size-fits-all. Students now have the ability to choose their own path in their entrepreneurship education by customizing their curriculum requirements to meet their goals as an entrepreneur or intrapreneur.

For one pop-up course held in February, Andrew Hanna, assistant professor of practice in management and entrepreneurship, teamed up with Mike Smith, founder of The Bay and co-founder and co-executive director of Rabble Mill, to teach a course to help students answer the question, “What do I want to be when I grow up?” Using the entrepreneurial skillset of design thinking, students created a tailored five-year plan for their life after graduation.
With a unique background in both family business and franchising, Lindsay Thomsen reimagined what the curriculum and student experience looks like for both topics. Lindsay utilizes her network and personal experience to help tell the story of the great opportunities that exist in both.

**FAMILY BUSINESS**

The State of Nebraska’s economy is dependent on the success of family businesses. In Family Business (ENTR 322), students learn about the opportunities and challenges that are distinctive to family businesses. From succession planning to family business dynamics, Lindsay leans on her experience in a family business and often brings in guest speakers to share their stories.

To enroll in the course, students must have a connection to family business. The commonality between the students leads to valuable discussions and conclusions that they often take back to their family business.

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This was definitely my favorite class. This past semester, I asked my parents so many questions I never thought about asking them. I learned a lot about the business and its future. I am so happy I took this class. The knowledge I’ve gained is not only beneficial for family business but for life. You helped push me out of my comfort zone and taught me much more than you know!

**ENTR 322 Course Evaluation**

**FRANCHISING**

In Franchising (ENTR 425), Lindsay helps students explore every side of franchising, from business concept to ownership. She strays away from the textbooks and provides students with opportunities to hear from founders, take field trips to local franchise headquarters and gives students the connections to explore career opportunities in franchising.

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Dr. Thomsen has challenged my thoughts on what entrepreneurship is and opened my eyes to opportunities that exist in franchising. Franchising provides opportunities in every industry to own your own business or contribute in a corporate setting. This class is the most impactful business course I have taken at Nebraska.

**ENTR 425 Course Evaluation**
STUDY ABROAD IN RWANDA

For three weeks in May and June, a group of students explored the entrepreneurial expansion and passion in Rwanda.

Economic growth, paired with rapidly expanding infrastructure, highlighted the need for entrepreneurial expansion throughout Africa. In few environments is this emerging entrepreneurial passion more alive and well than in the country of Rwanda. The paired passion of the Rwandan people and broader efforts by the Rwandan government to invest in economic growth make Rwanda a unique case for entrepreneurial opportunity.

The group, led by Andrew Hanna, visited more than 20 startups and explored the entrepreneurship ecosystem in industries like agriculture, hospitality, healthcare and technology.

During their three-week, immersive experience, the group also went on a safari at Akagera National Park and learned about coffee production and exportation at Nyungwe Rainforest.

"Studying abroad, no matter where you go, will change your perspective about life and your place in this world," said Andrew Hanna.

My time in Rwanda not only pushed me outside my comfort zone but allowed me to flourish. I had once in a lifetime experiences like going on a safari, monkey trekking and learning traditional Rwandan dances. My perception of compassion, hard work and passion were broadened as I made new friends throughout my three weeks.

Mayah Delgado-Walker, business and hospitality, restaurant, and tourism management major
MINOR IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The minor in entrepreneurship helps business and non-business students develop an entrepreneurial mindset, strengthen their problem-solving skills and connect with our network of entrepreneurs and innovators. Students gain the knowledge and skills to start their own business, work at a startup or lead growth in an established company.

Since its inception in 2017, the entrepreneurship minor consistently increased in demand from students who study outside the College of Business.

The increased interest is a testament to the quality of education and value we provide, and the recognition of entrepreneurship as a vital skillset in today’s dynamic world.

“We’re excited about the momentum thus far, and will continue to innovate to provide exceptional entrepreneurship education for students across all disciplines. Our expansion of pop-up courses and intentional addition of community fellows in a wide array of industries will help us serve these students better than ever before. We are proud to be a landing spot for students from every corner of campus as they take the first steps in their entrepreneurial journey,” said Mallory Krenk.

During the 2022-23 academic year, 40% of students with a declared entrepreneurship minor have majors outside the College of Business.

My experience through the Center for Entrepreneurship has been much more impactful than I could have imagined. I thought I would be learning business basics with a dash of entrepreneurship skills. What I found was a community of innovators, creatives and risk-takers who are willing to support, encourage and challenge me as I learn that entrepreneurship is more than just a business model. The director, assistant director, professors, students and staff have bolstered my confidence as I develop and grow my ideas and goals.

Danae Contino, graphic design major
ALUMNI SUCCESS & ECONOMIC IMPACT

From founders to ecosystem champions, alumni across the U.S. and the globe contribute to entrepreneurial activity. Whether it’s a company or an ecosystem, Husker graduates are eager to #StartSomething or #GrowSomething.

Since 1987, the New Venture Competition served as a great place for students to get traction on their idea. A few notable competition alumni are displayed below.

The Husker Venture Fund proves to not only provide invaluable hands-on experience to students, but also gives area founders a shot they didn’t have before and contributes to economic development in the state of Nebraska.

NEW VENTURE COMPETITION ALUMNI

Emily Kist | B.S. Venture & Innovation Minneapolis, Minn.
Adam Folsom | M.B.A. Management ’22 Omaha, Nebraska
Ben Hohensee | Fund Operation Palo Alto, Calif.
HUSKER VENTURE FUND INVESTMENTS

**TIIGA**

Co-Founders: Jeff & Katy Tezak  
B.A., ’08, M.A. ’18 & B.S.B.A., ’17  
Creating plant-based products centered around the Baobab fruit promoting a healthy microbiome and improved overall health.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**Founder: Dusty Birge**  
Uses proprietary data collection software to help electric utility companies lower inspection costs.  
Kearney, Nebraska

**swishBOOM**  
Founder: Kellee Mikuls  
Helps families book babysitters they can trust while creating a gig economy for babysitters to pick up flexible job opportunities.  
Omaha, Nebraska

**Nestimate**

** Founder: Kelby Meyers ’12  
B.S.B.A., Economics and Finance  
Software analytics platform designed to enable the use of retirement income solutions, namely in the 401k plan.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

HUSKER VENTURE FUND ALUMNI

- **B.A., Finance ’22**  
  Internship Associate @ Nelnet Minnesota
- **B.S.B.A., Finance & Economics ’22**  
  Associate @ Beeso Studio
- **B.S.B.A., Finance ’22**  
  Associate @ VC Labornia
- **Blake Ingamells**  
  B.S.B.A., Finance & Economics ’22  
  Business Development & Operations @ 31st Street Capital  
  Lincoln, Nebraska
- **Anthony Marfisi**  
  B.S.B.A., Accounting & Finance ’22  
  Analyst @ DCA Asset Management  
  Scottsdale, Arizona
- **Lane Schopp**  
  B.S.B.A., Finance ’22  
  Investment Analyst @ Carson Group  
  Omaha, Nebraska
- **Ian Anderson**  
  B.S., Software Engineering ’22  
  Software Engineer @ Workshop  
  Omaha, Nebraska
- **Edwin Bahena-Flores**  
  B.S.B.A., Finance ’22  
  Analyst @ Deutsche Bank  
  New York, New York
- **Maria Heyen**  
  B.S.B.A., International Business & Clifton Builders Management ’23  
  Venture Associate @ Scale Venture Capital  
  Columbia, Missouri
ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

In the Center for Entrepreneurship, we prioritize enhancing students’ experience at Nebraska both inside and outside the classroom. The Entrepreneurship Community Fellows help us do just that.

"Students learn best from someone who was in their shoes and found a way to succeed," said Sam Nelson, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship. "This select group of area entrepreneurs, service providers and founders expand our capacity to deliver world-class education by providing students with the network and experiences to be future business leaders and innovators. We chose individuals who will provide positive interactions and learning opportunities for our students and are looking to make an impact on the future drivers of Nebraska’s economy."

Entrepreneurship Community Fellows commit to at least two meaningful engagements each academic year. Engagement opportunities include guest lecturing, mentoring, connecting students to internships and serving as judges at our annual competitions.

"The world needs more entrepreneurs – people who spark economic growth and introduce innovations that improve our way of life. Our students will learn how to further build, grow and innovate from these experienced entrepreneurs."

Kathy Farrell, James Jr. and Susan Stuart Endowed Dean of the College of Business
COMMUNITY FELLOWS

Aakriti Agrawal
Co-Founder, Girls Code Lincoln
Pedro Agüero
VP of Operations, Arroyo Exteriors
Brian Ardinger
Founder, InsideOutside.io
Director of Innovation, Nelnet
Christopher Aumueller
Founder & CEO, FanWord
Rick Bettger
President, Omaha Car Care
Erik Bird
CEO, Eat Fit Go
Mark Buss
Owner & CEO, Pop-A-Lock Indianapolis
Rick Cantril
Senior Director, Tebra
Sourabh Chakraborty
Owner, Proto Banao
Breck Collingsworth
CEO, Resort Lifestyle Communities
Charlie Colon
Owner, Chick-fil-A SouthPointe
Dustin Dam
Owner, Dam Integration & Technology
Josh DeMers
Co-Founder, Prepare Insurance
Bart Dillashaw
Founder, Enterprise Legal Studio
Sid Dinsdale
Chairman, Pinnacle Bancorp
Mike Dunlap
Executive Chairman, Nelnet
Don Eckels
Co-Founder, Scooter’s Coffee
Brenda Fleck
Owner, G.P. Fleck & Sons
Laura Frantz
Owner, House of Colour Lincoln
Andrea Fredrickson
President, Revela
Angela Garbacz
Owner & Chef, Goldenrod Pastries, Goldenrod Grocery
Carey Gille
Co-Founder & CEO, Franchise Fastlane
Erleen Hatfield
Founder, Hatfield Group
Scott Henderson
Managing Principal, NMotion
Dan Hoffman
CEO, Invest Nebraska
Paul Hogan
Co-Founder, Home Instead Senior Care
John Hogan
Co-Founder & President, PLUS Services
Jason Hornady
VP, Hornady Manufacturing Co.
Umeda Islamova
Communications Manager, Rabata
Julian Ivey-Caldwell
CIO, TS Banking Group
Paska Juma
Program Manager, Google
Emily Kist
Venture & Innovation Associate, Nelnet
Ashley Kloxin
Owner, Perspire Sauna Studio
Todd Koca
Founder, President & CEO, CrowSource
Jordan Lambrecht
Founder & Director, Pixel Bakery
Sam Manzitto, Jr.
President, Manzitto Contracting
Chad Mariska
Secretary of Commerce & Workforce Development, State of Oklahoma
Brooke Mullen
Founder & Designer, Sapahn
Chuck Norris
Managing Director, Nelnet
Reed Nyffeler
Co-Founder & CEO, Signal
Christina Oldfather
Workforce Development Director, Rabble Mill
Graham Pansing Brooks
Co-Founder & President, SEExchange, LTD
Daniel Pauley
Co-Founder & Partner, Smith Pauley
Rebecca Pearson
Owner, BOP Communications
Katie Pocras
CEO, MotorTango
Vern Powers
CEO, Hastings HVAC
Alicia Reisinger
Founder & Creative Director, Wax Buffalo
Brandon Rigoni
Owner, Yogurtini Lincoln
Rod Roberts
COO, Right at Home
Doris Robertson
Executive Vice President, Union Bank & Trust
Janna Ronert
Founder, Image Skincare, Hush & Hush
Tyler Seals
Co-Founder & Partner, Smith Pauley
Grant Stahla
Owner, Stahla Services
Jeffrey Vaske
Founder & President, Charter Hill Partners
Erica Wassinger
Co-Founder & General Partner, Proven Ventures
Matthew Wegener
President, iSoft Data Systems
Tom Welter
President, Empower Brands
Lizz Whitacre
Founder & CEO, Pawlytics
Lyn Wineman
President & Chief Strategist, KidGlov
John Wirtz
Co-Founder & CPO, Hudl
Wendy Wiseman
President & Chief Creative Officer, Zaiss & Company
ENGAGING THE CAMPUS

Entrepreneurship Campus Fellows connect entrepreneurial related activities occurring across the university to enhance the visibility and impact of all our individual efforts. Campus Fellows share available classes as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular events and opportunities relevant to entrepreneurship to students across campus.

The group, spearheaded by the Center for Entrepreneurship, will elevate entrepreneurship on campus through increased collaboration and communication. Through these efforts, students from across both University of Nebraska–Lincoln campuses will leave the university with valuable entrepreneurial connections and experiences.

Twenty-seven faculty and staff answered the call to help us elevate entrepreneurship at Nebraska. With representation in every college, we look forward to seeing what we accomplish together.

“Amanda Metcalf, Program and External Relations Manager”

“The Campus Fellows program will enable us to reach more students than ever before and the opportunities to collaborate will be invaluable to students, especially as they’re building a team to create or grow their business.”
CAMPUS FELLOWS

Ajai Ammachathram  
Nutrition and Health Sciences

Ankit Chandra  
Water for Food Institute

Brennan Costello  
Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program

Aziza Cyamani  
Interior Design, College of Architecture

Carrick Detweiler  
School of Computing

Joy Eakin  
NUtech Ventures

Megan Elliott  
Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts

Kate Engel  
Nebraska Innovation Campus

Robin Garewal  
Department of Marketing

Zane Gernhart  
NUtech Ventures

Jemalyn Griffin  
Advertising and Public Relations

Courtney Hillebrecht  
Department of Political Science

Terry Howell  
Food Processing Center

Emira Ibrahmapasic  
School of Global Integrative Studies

Jake Koperski  
Design Studio

David Lambe  
Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program

Jen Landis  
Graphic Design, College of Fine and Performing Arts

Tom Larson  
Glenn Korff School of Music

Kristin Malek  
Nutrition and Health Sciences

Katie Mowat  
Biological Systems Engineering

Santosh Pitla  
Biological Systems Engineering

Jerry Reif  
Innovation Studio

Brad Roth  
NUtech Ventures

James Schnable  
Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

Rob Simon  
Department of Marketing

Brett Stohs  
College of Law

Marilyn Wolf  
School of Computing
Outstanding Student Organization Award
StartupsUNL

Mortar Board Professor of the Month
DR. SAM NELSON

"Sam shares his story with humility, is passionate about education, connects students to opportunities, gives a resounding yes whenever someone asks for help and makes students proud to call UNL home."
Bennett Perlinger, student nominator

Excellence in Teaching Award
DR. ANDREW HANNA

One student nominator called attention to Andrew’s humor and authenticity.

"His level of personality means a lot to people and it shows that he cares about us, not just as students, but as people."

Outstanding New Student Organization Award
Husker Venture Fund
Heyen Challenges Herself, Builds Legacy of Inclusion

College Recognizes Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service

Distinguished Alumni and Friends Receive Nebraska Business Awards

Language Software Company Wins New Venture Competition

New Business Pop-Up Course Helps Students Design Their Future

Hohensee Readies for Career in Venture Capital

Nebraska Finishes Third in Global Venture Capital Competition

Husker Venture Fund Impacts State, Entrepreneurs and Students

Center for Entrepreneurship Names 43 Entrepreneurship Fellows

Caven Boosts Women’s Futures With Mentorship, Entrepreneurship

Twenty-Three Students Selected to Join Husker Venture Fund

48-Hour Challenge Brings Big Ideas to Life
FACULTY & STAFF

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Student Engagement & Recruitment Coordinator

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Director, Nebraska Business Development Center

ADVISORY BOARD

The Center for Entrepreneurship Advisory Board meets twice a year to help us identify emerging opportunities and ensure that we remain on the forefront of innovation and success. These entrepreneurs are committed to making a difference for our students and in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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Aaron Davis
Owner, Aaron Davis Presentations

Paska Juma
Program Manager, Google

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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Donations to the Center for Entrepreneurship support students with scholarships and experiential learning activities by providing support for our competitions and student-centered activities. We greatly appreciate your investment and contributions to the current and aspiring entrepreneurs at Nebraska.

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WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

Contact Amy Kloefkorn at amy.kloefkorn@nufoundation.org or visit go.unl.edu/entrepreneurshipexcellencefund.