

FALL SEMESTER REPORT



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Husker Venture Fund

ELEVATING PROCESS

HVF Managing Directors from left to right: Ateev Bhandari, Samuel DeZube, and Maria Heyen.

2022

HUSKER VENTURE FUND



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Husker Venture Fund





A LETTER FROM THE THE MANAGING DIRECTORS

With immense pride and commensurate gratitude, we present the Husker Venture Fund Semester Report for Fall 2022. During this period, the fund continued to lead the charge as the premier student investor consortium for pre-seed and early-stage companies. We also executed a momentous recruitment drive to ensure young Huskers continue gaining hands-on VC experience for years to come.

Over the eight-month period from May to December 2022, the fund has invested a total of \$50,000 in two early-stage companies founded and grown right here in Nebraska. Beyond capital injections, HVF's has supported Nebraska's entrepreneurs through recruitment and outreach assistance, pitch competitions, and extensive feedback sessions. Our consistent engagement with ambitious entrepreneurs and investors has transformed the group into prodigious ambassadors of the VC talent here in Nebraska. The same is evident from our members' and alumni' success in their careers, with a 100% placement rate for Summer 2022. A quick chat with an HVF member will convince one of the indelibly constructive impacts the fund has had on their professional and personal lives.



To our 2022 Class of Associates, your commitment and performance throughout the HVF VC Bootcamp have been a source of inspiration and cheer. Our immense sense of comfort in the Fund's future is owed largely to the potential you've all displayed so assuredly throughout your little time in the fund. We are stoked to see all you continue to achieve with, and for HVF. Welcome aboard!

We extend our highest gratitude to this ecosystem that has embraced and uplifted Nebraska's student VCs to the forefront of activity in the state. The unwavering support from our advisors and our donors' perpetual generosity has enabled us to innovate student experiences and transform them into contributors to the workforce. Consequently, we have made remarkable progress towards the N2025 Strategic Plan.

Finally, we encourage all readers to reach out to the fund to learn more about what we do and how we do it. We've been fortunate to have this experience. It only seems right we do our best to share it.

Ateev Bhandari, Maria Heyen, Samuel DeZube

Ateev Bhandari, Maria Heyen, Samuel DeZube
Managing Directors, Husker Venture Fund

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The Husker Venture Fund offers entrepreneurs 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.

Dr. Sam Nelson, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Associate Professor of Practice in Management

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QUICK CATCH UP

SUMMER SEMESTER 2022

Internships & Placements

In the summer of 2022, all 11 members completed internships. Of those internships, seven members worked in Venture Capital or Private Equity, one had an internship abroad, and one had a congressional internship. Local Nebraska firms and startup accelerators NMotion, Invest Nebraska, 31st Street Capital, and Nebraska Angels have interns currently involved in Husker Venture Fund.

Deal Flow

Husker Venture Fund completed one investment this summer, investing \$25k in Maxwell. Deal flow remained steady as the Managing Directors Screened five companies throughout the summer. Members also remained engaged by participating in summer due diligence writing.

Travels

Two members of Husker Venture Fund studied abroad this summer. Maria Heyen lived in Barcelona, Spain, for nine weeks, and Sam Lilly studied at Oxford University in England. Pictured below, from right to left, are Sam Lilly in England, Ateev Bhandari in India, and David Spitzzenberger in Washington, D.C.



WHAT IS VC BOOTCAMP

Husker Venture Fund VC Bootcamp is an eight-week hands-on experience for current UNL students to learn more about Venture Capital and the Nebraska Startup Ecosystem.

"The thing I most enjoyed about the Bootcamp was how quickly it caught us up to speed and taught us about the various aspects of venture capital. The group itself was exceptional, and the number of people that really dove into learning about venture capital was motivating, as we all pushed each other to learn more."

Edwin Bahena-Flores, Senior

Students learned new concepts every week through a slide presentation and experiences from Managing Directors and the Director of New Member Education, guest speakers, and weekly readings from the book, *Venture Deals, Be Smarter than your Lawyer and Venture Capitalist* by Brad Feld and Jason Mendelson.

At the beginning of the Bootcamp, each general member received a notebook, pen, and highlighter to take notes. All notes and quizzes were completed on paper, old school style.





VENTURE BOOTCAMP

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

1

The Players and How Funds Work

Students learned fundamental terms of venture capital, such as structure, types of VC funds, and financing rounds.

2

The Nebraska Ecosystem vs. The World

Compare the VC market and valuation, and check the size in Nebraska vs. other places worldwide. In addition, students learned about the key players in Nebraska.

3

Term Sheets from the VC & Founder with Ben Williamson

Learned term sheets by learning about economic and control factors to consider, types of term sheets, and pre-money vs. post-money valuation. Ben Williamson, Principal at Invest Nebraska, explained term sheets and the factors that play the most significant role in investments.

4

Term Sheets from Legal with Grant Maynard

Grant Mayard, Principal at ELegal Studio, explained term sheets from a legal perspective and the factors that matter the most to founders.

5

Cap Tables and Ownership

Students were exposed to capitalization tables, conversion methods, and convertible debt.

6

The Do's and Don'ts of Due Diligence

Students studied due diligence and what key questions and information VCs look for throughout a pitch. The students were assigned groups for a final project: a due-diligence report. Thank you to Karen Borchert, CEO of Alpaca, for letting HVF access Alpaca's pitch and deck.

7

How HVF Works

Students learned about HVF's fund structure and previous investments and reviewed them for the final.

8

Final

Students took their final exam on paper, and Managing Directors explained the next steps after boot camp.

VENTURE BOOTCAMP BY THE NUMBERS

50

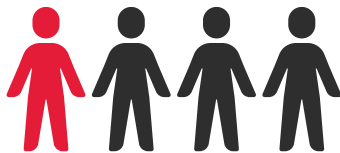
Applicants

32

Selected

23

Associates



26% Women

(4% AY 21-22)



24% Non-Business

Majors

(11% AY 21-22)



50-50 Class Split

(90% upper classman, 10%
underclassman AY 21-22)

The Student Experience

"The HVF Bootcamp was the most unique experience of my first semester. As a freshman, it was special to get such a strong introduction and immersion into the world of venture capital so soon. The bootcamp pushed us to engage in our learning material, hands-on due diligence practice, and getting to know the other participants. I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to work with a group of fellow students motivated to make a difference in the Nebraska start-up venture capital landscape."

Gretchen Holland, Freshman

"Bootcamp gave me an opportunity to learn about finance topics beyond the classroom and was a great experience to learn more about VC from HVF's Managing directors and professionals in the industry. I enjoyed learning with and from other students participating in Bootcamp to enhance my understanding of venture capital, HVF, and the startup culture in Nebraska."

Colby Marsden, Junior



DEAL FLOW

PROCESS OUTLINE



Screening and Sourcing

HVF uses connections from different fund members to find personalized companies to fit the future investment portfolio. Companies are also welcomed to apply on the HVF website.

Pitching

After screening, HVF invites founders to deliver a 15-minute pitch followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. These pitches allow the fund to ask valuable questions and learn more about the proposed company.

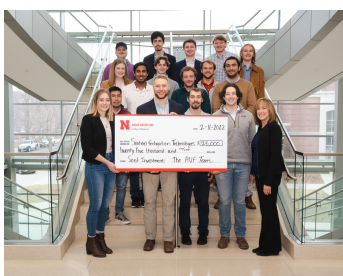


Due Diligence

After the pitch, the fund votes to continue with the due diligence process. If the vote is successful, this includes a full written report led by a Senior Associate alongside an Associate Team.

Final Vote

When the final due diligence report is complete, the fund members are obligated to read over information and personal remarks from the report team. The whole fund then votes on an investment decision. An 80% "Yes" vote will secure the company an investment.



Investment

Following a successful "Yes" vote, the fund chooses to invest \$20,000-\$25,000 into the selected company. Investment is delivered through an investment vehicle such as preferred equity, convertible debt, or a S.A.F.E. Note.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Venture Bootcamp Recruitment Efforts

Managing Directors and fund members participated in four club fairs to recruit new associates. They promoted the organization and encouraged students to participate in Bootcamp. The goal was to recruit students outside the College of Business to have a diverse set of majors.



Taco Night

HVF hosted an all-night social, where we made street tacos and played games. An activity helped new members of the fund feel more involved. The event was a hit, and all had fun!



Inside Outside Innovation Conference

The Managing Directors and other fund members attended the Inside Outside Innovation Conference at the Nebraska Innovation Campus. Students heard from 10+ speakers on innovation. Samuel DeZube helped organize the startup showcase.



Inside Ameritas: An HVF x BRIC x Wall Street Scholars Exclusive Event

Thank you to Ameritas for hosting Husker Venture Fund. Students heard from Jim Mikus and Tina Udell at Ameritas Investment Partners and received a tour of the office.



The Raikes School: Design Process Pitch Feedback Night

HVF Members provided feedback to Freshman students Design Process final project. The input helped students understand what VCs would look for in a pitch.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS

As the founders of Husker Venture Fund intended, current members have taken their hands on work and natural talent to develop skills needed for future VC related work. All 11 returning members completed summer internships, seven in the field of VC or Private Equity. The rest have taken their talents to pursue other finance related roles, international internships, or congressional internships. HVF helps students develop strong VC knowledge, which allows them to be prepared for highly competitive positions traditionally targeted toward students at "target" schools.



“Husker Venture Fund has been crucial to how successful I've been at VC Lab. It took out the whole first step process of trying to get to know venture capital because I already had such a great basic understanding of it through HVF. I didn't have to learn as much as quickly as other people at VC Lab.”

Ben Hohensee, Senior, Intern at VC Lab in Palo Alto, California



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

JIMMY WHEBBE & ALEX ZLATIC



Jimmy Whebbe, Senior Associate

Jimmy is a Senior Finance Major from Rosemont, MN. Jimmy will be stepping up as a Managing Director for HVF in the coming spring. This past summer, Jimmy interned at Great North Ventures in Minneapolis. "Husker Venture Fund has truly been one of my greatest college experiences. The relationships, knowledge, and network I have gained have been unparalleled."

Alex Zlatic, Senior Associate

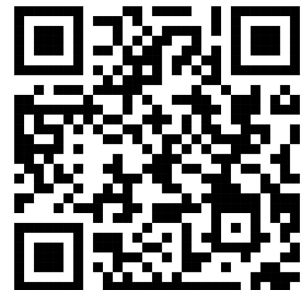
Alex is a Senior Actuarial Science Major from Bloomington, IL. Upon graduation, Alex will be an Actuarial Analyst at Mutual of Omaha. Alex is an avid runner and can always be found running around campus. "HVF is unique because of the real-world impact we can make as students. It's an incredible experience working on real deals, which fund the growth of local companies."

SAME PLACE, SAME LINK

NEW WEBSITE, NEW LOOK



Our website is still in the same spot, but with a new look! One of the goals for the year was to give our website a fresh look, update our portfolio, and add our members. Now, you can see all the start-ups we have invested in, including the CEO, and how they are connected to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition, you can find our semester reports, current members, and alumni. Thank you to the College of Business marketing team for helping us design the new website!



Scan the code to visit our website

CURRENT INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO



Tiiga

Lincoln | November 2022

CEO: Jeff Tezak, Harrouna Malgoubri, Katy Tezak

Tiiga uses the Baobab fruit as the primary ingredient in its powdered rehydration mixes. It's plant-based and naturally flavored powders are low in sugar and high in fiber, which works great in aiding in blood sugar regulation- all of this across three delicious flavors.



Maxwell

Omaha | July 2022

CEO: Adriana Cisneros Basulto, '07, MBA

Maxwell makes it easy for small to midsize employers to offer personalized employee benefits and rewards and attract and retain the talent they need. Client companies assign a budget for employees to use on curated benefits, reimbursements, or purchases made with their Maxwell debit card.



Snappy Workflow

Kearney | April 2022

CEO: Dusty Birge

Snappy Workflow helps electric utility companies lower inspection costs by automating thermal inspections of power lines using proprietary data collection software. Inspectors install a roof-mounted thermal camera on a vehicle to speed up the inspection process by ten times.



Nestimate

Lincoln | March 2022

CEO: Kelby Meyers, '12, Economics and Finance

Nestimate provides the first software-based solution enabling guaranteed income in retirement plans in a scalable manner. It also fills a gap in the retirement planning space by presenting retirement data clearly and concisely.



Sentinel Fertigation

Lincoln | November 2021

CEO: Jackson Stansell, '21, MS, Ph.D. Student

Sentinel Fertigation looks to solve profitability and environmental sustainability issues in agriculture caused by inefficient nitrogen fertilization. Using tech to create more efficient nitrogen applications in the field saves farmers money while also being more environmentally conscious.

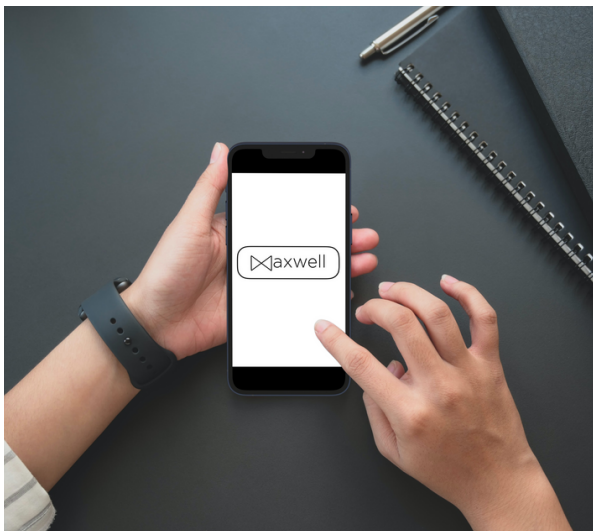
HUSKER VENTURE FUND: SUMMER 2022 INVESTMENT



Maxwell makes it easy for small to midsize employers to offer personalized employee benefits and rewards and attract and retain the talent they need. Client companies assign a budget for employees to use on curated benefits, reimbursements or purchases made with their Maxwell debit card.

Since the addition of Maxwell to the HVF portfolio in July, the team placed first at the Hispanic Heritage Month Pitch Series in partnership with Google for Startups and Inicio Ventures. This took place at the Latinx in Tech: NYC event hosted by Tech: NYC and Mastercard.

Maxwell pitched to HVF and went through the due diligence process in July. HVF followed through with a \$25,000 investment.



HUSKER VENTURE FUND: FALL 2022 INVESTMENT

TIIGÄ[®]

Tiiga is a baobab-based health and wellness brand designed to use the power of the baobab fruit to increase people's health while supporting local communities back in Africa.

Baobab, the famous African superfruit, has been used for energy, immunity, and gut health for thousands of years in African culture. Tiiga brings this power directly to consumers with a great-tasting, on-the-go drink mix.

Since the addition of Tiiga to the HVF portfolio in November 2022, the Tiiga team can be found in 30+ Hyvee stores. Tiiga also completed NMotion's growth accelerator in December 2022.

Tiiga pitched to HVF and went through the due diligence process in November HVF followed through with a \$25,000 investment.





COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Husker Venture Fund





MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Eric Allbery

Eric is a Senior Mechanical Engineering Major from Omaha, Nebraska. He is currently the President of UNL Running Club. Eric is also a Project Manager Assistant at Grunwald Mechanical. Eric's favorite TV show is The Amazing Race.



Will Anderson

Will is a Junior from Crystal Lake, Illinois, studying Software Engineering through the Raikes School. He is currently a Software Engineer intern at Workshop, an Omaha-based startup. He is an associate in Husker Venture Fund and serves as the Internet Chairman for Pi Kappa Alpha. In his free time, Will enjoys playing and writing music with his band, Loose Change.



Edwin Bahena-Flores

Edwin is a Senior Finance Major from San Jose, California. He is an Associate of the Husker Venture Fund and held a summer analyst position for BNP Paribas. Edwin is also a leader of various other organizations on campus including NHRR & the Big Red Investment Club. Edwin enjoys woodworking and playing the acoustic guitar in his free time.



MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Carolina Barraza

Carolina Barraza is a freshman Accounting and Marketing major with a minor in Clifton Builders Management from Courtland, KS. She is part of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board, Inclusive Excellence Advisory Board, and an Honors Ambassador. She is interning at the Foundry with Launch Leadership. Carolina launched a polymer-clay earring business.



Kirk Bramwell

Kirk is a Freshman Computer Science Major from Papillion, Nebraska. He is an Associate for the Husker Venture Fund and has been an ITOC Intern for Orion Advisor Solutions. Kirk would like to visit every continent in his lifetime.



Sophie Brendel

Sophie Brendel is a Senior majoring in Law & Business with minors in Psychology and Clifton Builders Management. Sophie is from Lake Winnebago, MO . She is involved as a Student Strengths Coach, RA and Clifton Builder. Off campus, she works for Nelnet as an Corporate Ventures Intern, and a CrossFit coach. Sophie is that she is an avid poker player.



MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Jack Britten

Jack is a Junior Accounting Major from outside the Twin Cities in Minnesota. He is an Associate with the Husker Venture Fund and a member of the UNL Debate Team, Pre-Law Club, and BRIC. He works as a Learning Community Mentor and volunteers for Lincoln VITA. Jack has interned for a U.S. Senator and a Law firm. This summer, Jack will be a Tax Intern at KPMG.



Gillian Burns

Gillian is a Finance and Marketing major from Mahwah, New Jersey. She is an associate with the Husker Venture Fund. Gillian is doing an internship with Northwestern Mutual and is the VP of Finance with UNL's Delta Sigma Pi. She has a goal of seeing the continuous 48 by the time she is 25.



Nolan Cubrich

Nolan is a Freshman from Omaha Nebraska studying business administration. He is an associate in the Husker Venture Fund. Nolan's favorite food is salmon nigiri.



MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Michael Day

Michael Day is a Junior Accounting and Finance major from Omaha, Nebraska. He is an associate member of the husker venture fund, was president of the economics club, and is currently involved on the executive board of Phi Delta Theta. He has interned at Dial Senior Living and is currently an auditing intern at Eide Bailly.



Landen Fogle

Landen is a Freshman Computer Science major originally from Omaha, Nebraska. He actively participates in Husker Venture Fund, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and the Raikes School. Landen is an incoming software developer intern at Sandhills Global. Landen's dream vacation is traveling to Paris.



Gretchen Holland

Gretchen is a Freshman Finance and Business & Law major from Bloomington, Minnesota. She is an associate with the Husker Venture Fund, a member of the College of Business Student Advisory Board, and Vice President of UNL's chapter of the Thomistic Institute. Gretchen enjoys hiking national parks and has an antique book collection.



MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Will Manhart

Will is a Junior studying Finance and is originally from Omaha, Nebraska. He is an Associate with the Husker Venture Fund and will be interning at Charles Schwab in Investor Services this upcoming summer. After studying abroad through the Nebraska at Oxford program, his dream is to work in London.



Colby Marsden

Colby Marsden is a Junior Finance major in the Business Honors Academy from Overland Park, Kansas. She is a Finance Intern at Invest Nebraska and a Finance Tutor on campus. Colby is a big advocate for Nebraska startups. In her free time, Colby enjoys competing in triathlons and training for Ironman races.



Ike McLey

Ike McLey is a Sophomore Finance major from Kansas City. He is a member of the Nebraska Business Honors Academy and an associate of the Husker Venture Fund. Ike loves to travel with his family, and his favorite hobby is scuba diving.



MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Reese Munson

Reese is a Junior Economics major from Omaha, NE. She is an associate with the Husker Venture Fund and is involved in the Nebraska Honors Academy through classes and the Enhancement and Philanthropy Committees. Reese is also a Research Scholar for the Bureau of Business Research and a Peer Career Coach for the Business Career Center.



Thiago Pereira

Thiago is a Business Administration major in his Junior Year. He is an associate with the Husker Venture Fund and is developing a startup in his home country. Thiago is originally from Salvador, Brazil. Thiago's dream is to help strengthen the startup community in Brazil through the knowledge acquired in the largest venture capital market.



Sam Pribyl

Sam is a Junior Supply Chain Management and Economics double major from Papillion, Nebraska. Sam works as a Peer Career Coach in the Business Career Center, as well as a member of the International Welcome Team on campus. This coming summer he will work as an Orientation Leader, and study abroad at Oxford.



MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Jonathan Skelton

Jonathan is majoring in Math and Computer Science and is a Freshman at UNL. He is an associate at the Husker Venture fund and a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Jonny is originally from Sioux Falls, SD, and enjoys golfing in his free time.



Garrett Smith

Garrett is an Accounting and Management Major with a minor in Psychology. He is from Kansas City, Missouri, and is an associate with Husker Venture Fund. Garrett is part of the Clifton Builders Program, Residence Life, and the Business Honors Academy.



Amir Tarkian

Amir is a Freshman majoring in Computer Science and Physics at the Raikes school originally from Lincoln, Nebraska. He works research for solid-state materials and plays tennis, and will intern with Hudl in addition to his involvement with HVF.



MEET THE ASSOCIATES



Charlie Trofholz

Charlie is a Freshman Finance major from Elkhorn, Nebraska. He is an Associate with the Husker Venture Fund, a member of the Wall Street Scholars, and Inclusive Business Leaders. Charlie is also a Sales Consultant with the Daily Nebraskan and a Client Relations Manager with Farm Bureau Financial Services. He is finishing his Real Estate License as well.



Connor Wickless

Connor is a Junior Finance major from Omaha, NE. He is an active member of Alpha Gamma Sigma fraternity. Currently, Connor works as the Social Media Content Specialist for Fliff, a startup in the gaming & casino industry. One of his favorite sports is soccer and he is a member of the American Outlaws support group for the US Men's National Team.



MEET THE

SENIOR ASSOCIATES



Marco Cuaran

Marco is a Senior Economics and Finance double major from Ipiales, Colombia. He is a Senior Associate of HVF and a Finance and Accounting intern at Nelnet. Marco is also involved in Delta Sigma Pi, Sigma Nu, and the Big Red Investment Club. He loves to travel, has lived in three different countries, and speaks English, French, and Spanish.



Sam Lilly

Sam is a Senior Finance major with minors in Economics and Clifton Builders Management. He is a Senior Associate in the Husker Venture Fund and is currently an associate at NMotion, a startup accelerator. He is originally from Omaha, Nebraska but his family is from Colombia.



Jason Rathbone

Jason is a Senior Finance major from Waverly, Nebraska. He is a Senior Associate for Husker Venture Fund. Jason also works at Husker Hub on campus which helps students with financial aid and many more things. Jason is a big soccer fan.

MEET THE

SENIOR ASSOCIATES



David Spitzenberger

David is a Finance major in his Senior year. He is a Senior Associate in the Husker Venture Fund and is an incoming analyst for Deloitte in their Arlington, VA office. David is originally from Omaha but is very excited to continue his experiences in Washington, DC and is happy to move away from Nebraska.



Jimmy Whebbe

Jimmy is a Senior Finance and Entrepreneurship major originally from Rosemount, Minnesota. This past summer Jimmy interned at Great North Ventures as a summer analyst and at a tech startup called Pathloom. He is currently a Senior Associate within the Husker Venture Fund.



Alex Zlatic

Alex is a Senior Actuarial Science and Finance major from Bloomington, IL. Along with being a member of the Husker Venture Fund, he is active in the Big Red Investment Club and will be an Actuarial Intern with Mutual of Omaha. Alex also enjoys running and is currently training for the Lincoln Half Marathon.

MEET THE

GRADUATING SENIORS



Ben Hohensee

Ben is a Senior Finance major from Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a Senior Associate with the Husker Venture Fund and worked at Hudl and VC Lab. Ben is also a Student Strengths Coach for the Clifton Strengths Institute and an NHRI mentor for elementary students in Lincoln, NE. Ben loves being in the mountains and snowboarding and he hits the slopes at any chance he can.



Blake Ingamells

Blake is a Finance and Economics major from Lincoln, Nebraska. Blake is now a Business Development and Operations Manager for 31st Street Capital. Prior to graduation, he was the Director of Recruitment for the Husker Venture Fund and President of the Wall Street Scholars of Nebraska. Blake's hobbies include reading and spending time with friends and family.



MEET THE

MANAGING DIRECTORS



Ateev Bhandari

Ateev is a Senior Accounting and Business major originally from Amritsar, India. He is a Managing Director with the Husker Venture Fund and an VC Intern at Invest Nebraska. Ateev is a student tutor in the College of Business Teaching & Learning Centre and enjoys helping others reach their full academic potential. His favorite food is fried dumplings.



Samuel DeZube

Samuel is a Junior Finance major with minors in Computer Science and Math at the Raikes School. He is currently one of the three Managing Directors of the Husker Venture Fund and works as an Investment Intern for Nebraska Angels. Samuel is originally from Stilwell, Kansas, and loves to play his guitar and write songs.



Maria Heyen

Maria is an Senior International Business and Clifton Builders Management Major. She is one of the Managing Directors of the Husker Venture Fund. Maria works as an Investment Analyst Intern for the Nebraska Angels and as a Business Development Intern for Yoo and Co. Accelerators/Xcellerant Ventures. Maria is originally from Astoria, Oregon.

HUSKER VENTURE FUND

ADVISORS



Investment Advisor

Ben Williamson

Ben Williamson has led the investment team for Invest Nebraska for the last four plus years and also serves as the company's General Counsel; additionally, Ben serves as Managing Director for Burlington Capital Ag-Venture, a new AgTech seed fund based in the Midwest. Prior to joining Invest Nebraska, Ben spent several years as an in-house corporate attorney and also has experience as a small business owner. Ben has led over 70 early-stage venture deals in his career



Advisor

Dr. Samuel Nelson

Dr. Samuel A. Nelson has been the Director for the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship since August 2016. He earned his Ph.D. in management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2011 and joined CBA in 2012 as the Associate Director for the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship. He has won the UNL Outstanding Contributions to Students Award a total of seven years. In addition, his former students have secured over 3.5 million in seed funding for their startups. Nelson also serves as a project coach and executive educator for the Governor's Leadership Academy and the Bryan Physicians Leadership Academy



Advisor

Joe Petsick

Joe co-founded Proxibid in Omaha in 2001. Proxibid's marketplace grew to \$7 billion in annual inventory, before the company was acquired in 2020. Joe is currently the Executive in Residence for the College of Business at the University of Nebraska. In this role, Joe offers an entrepreneurial lens in which to help evaluate opportunities that can help advance the College for students, faculty and the community. Joe has remained active in the startup ecosystem by starting and advising new companies Joe is also a board member of the Nebraska Angels, and a board member with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, where he also serves as the chairperson for the Builder's Council.

HUSKER VENTURE FUND IN THE PRESS



[Husker Venture Fund Impacts State, Entrepreneurs, and Students](#)

Building upon their successful first year, which included investing \$100,000 in Nebraskan startups and winning the university's Outstanding New Student Organization Award, student members of the Husker Venture Fund (HVF) set goals this year to grow their impact on the state and the future of venture capital investing.



[23 students selected to join Husker Venture Fund](#)

The Husker Venture Fund at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln has selected 23 students to join the student-led program as associates. The fund, built by alumni and university supporters, offers hands-on investment experience to students.



[Hohensee Readies for Career in Venture Capital](#)

Ben Hohensee, finance major from Lincoln, Nebraska, leveraged his strengths and experiences from working with the Husker Venture Fund (HVF) into a full-time career as a Venture Associate at VC Lab, headquartered in Palo Alto, California, after graduating this December.



[Heyen Builds Community, Her Future in Venture Capital](#)

To build a community on campus, Maria Heyen joined Pride in Business and entrepreneurship-related organizations like Husker Venture Fund and StartupsUNL.

HUSKER VENTURE FUND THANKS YOU



Thank you to our campus and the Lincoln community who have made Husker Venture Fund come to life. Without your help, support, and ideas, HVF would not be possible, nor sustainable.

Thank you to our portfolio companies for your time, transparency, and work. Husker Venture Fund would not be able to function without the entrepreneurs within the Nebraska ecosystem. Your countless hours, dedication, and effort that you all put into building something special does not go unnoticed.

A special thank you to all advisors, sponsors, donors, and faculty for your continued support and investment in the students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Especially Amy Kloefkorn, Justin Swanson, Chuck Norris, Brian Ardinger, Jeff Noordhoek, Mike Dunlap, Stephanie Luebbe, Kathy Anderson, Dean Kathy Farrell and many others! We greatly appreciate your commitment and significant contributions to the development of each of our members.



If you or someone you know is interested in becoming hands-on with Husker Venture Fund, please reach out to Maria Heyen at mheyen2@huskers.unl.edu



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Husker Venture Fund

**INTERESTED IN KEEPING UP WITH HVF?
FOLLOW AND CONNECT WITH US**



**AUTHORED BY CAROLINA BARRAZA, MARIA HEYEN, THIAGO PEREIRA, SAM PRIBYL
FOR FALL 2022**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln does not discriminate based upon any protected status . Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.