

# LEADERSHIP UNK<sup>®</sup>

The Leadership UNK Board of Graduates and 2022-2023 Class Members provided the food for the Faculty/Staff Club on Friday March 10th, 2023, at the Alumni House. Drinks were provided by UNK Staff Senate members.

We had a wonderful time!



The Leadership UNK 2022-2023 class met at College of Business and Technology on March 1st, 2023.



# Leadership UNK Alumni Spotlight:

# Lori Weed Skarka



**Hometown:** Kearney

**Department:** Military and Veteran Services

**Job Title:** Assistant Director, VA School  
Certifying Official (SCO)

## Job Responsibilities:

As the point of contact for military-connected students, I provide support and serve as a resource for the UNK community on issues and questions related to military education benefit programs.

My primary responsibility as the SCO is reporting enrollments and changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I'm a UNK employee and have been approved by the VA for this designation. School Certifying Officials receive continual training on VA Education law and enrollment processes.

## If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be and why:

I'd like to be a Nebraska tour guide. There are so many interesting and beautiful things to see and I'm proud of our state. I enjoy visiting with people about Nebraska and suggesting places to visit.

## Hobbies:

My favorite hobbies are going on road trips and exploring random backroads that look like fun. The second is browsing home-town thrift stores and finding unique things. I've found a picture worth nearly \$15,000 that I paid \$12 for. A third favorite is collecting cookbooks. I have over 500, most are from Nebraska churches or organizations, which is a result of the two other favorites!

## In 3 words, describe what true leadership looks like to you:

1. Example
2. Relationships
3. Encouragement

## Tell us something that might surprise us about you:

A few decades ago, in my "previous life" I was the first female EMT and police officer in Cedar County.

**"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."**

~John Quincy Adams

# Recognition & Emotional Intelligence

*Led by Heidi Knake & Stacy Darveau*

Leadership UNK's March session focused on recognition and emotional intelligence and the campus area of the College of Business and Technology. The morning started with coffee in Brewed Awakening, the student-operated coffee shop located at the east entrance of West Center. The class then received a tour of West Center from Steve Klein, CBT IT Services, to showcase the building's technology improvements and classroom updates designed to enhance student learning and engagement.

Following the tour, Dr. Kyle Luthans, Management Department Chair, spoke to the class about Positive Psychological Capital (PsyCap). PsyCap is a positive approach to leadership that can bring out a person's HERO (Hope, Efficacy, Resiliency, and Optimism). This is a relatively recent approach to leadership, but studies have shown a positive relationship between PsyCap and employee attitudes, employee behaviors, and measures of performance. To develop PsyCap, one can express gratitude, exercise regularly, and spend quality time with family and friends. The class practiced their PsyCap through an activity on goal setting and



barriers. Each class member wrote down a goal they'd like to achieve, barriers preventing them from achieving this goal, and how they can overcome these barriers. They then shared in groups and were offered suggestions from the group.

The class had the opportunity to hear from a panel of the College of Business and Technology Chair Council including Dr. Frank Tenkorang, Accounting, Finance, & Economics; Dr. Liaquat Hossain, Cyber Systems; Dr. Jim Vaux, Industrial Technology; Dr. Kyle Luthans, Management, Dr. Greg Broekemier, Marketing, Agribusiness & Supply Chain Management; Dustin Favinger, MBA Program/CBT Career Center; and Dr. Bree Dority, CBT Associate Dean. The panel discussed projects going on in their departments and their own personal leadership styles which included themes of building consensus, delegating, respecting colleagues and being adaptable. The class finished the morning by planning next year's class topics.

**PREPARING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY!**

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## Etiquette Lunch & Speeches

Led by Olivia Whittaker & Stefani Wegner

February's class session began with the class presenting their informational speeches on the topic of leadership. The broad topic allowed each individual to choose what aspects of leadership they wanted to discuss.

Many presented about the qualities they believe that leaders should have while others discussed what they have learned from leaders in their own lives. Following the speeches, each presenter received feedback from the class and Brandon Drozd, UNMC Director of Great Plains Leadership Institute.

The class then heard from Paul Twigg, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Twigg discussed the state of the College of Arts and Sciences, how he made his way to this role, and what he hopes to see in the future for CASC.

After hearing from Dean Twigg, the class headed to Ockinga for an etiquette luncheon with Scott Benson, Director of Human Resources. Scott discussed the basics of etiquette in a business setting, how to handle some uncomfortable situations that may arise, and how to make a good impression. The key takeaways were to follow the lead of the host and hostess and to avoid drawing attention to oneself throughout the meal.

