Upcoming Events:

**Monday, January 13th:**
Spring 2020 classes commence.

**Monday, January 20th:**
No classes due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 21st.

**Tuesday, January 28th:**
TSLC Community Conversations from 3:30-4:30 PM in the Mantor Hall Main Lounge. All Thompson Scholars are encouraged to attend. Featured Guest: Academic Advising and Career Development.

**Wednesday, February 5th:**
1st-Year Scholars: Community Dinner and Study Abroad/National Student Exchange Presentation/Panel. From 6:00-8:00 PM at the NSU Ponderosa Room E.

**Friday, February 7th:**
Mentor applications and recommendations are due.

**Monday, February 17th:**
TSLC Community Conversations from 4:00-5:00 PM in the Mantor Hall Main Lounge. All Thompson Scholars are encouraged to attend. Featured Guest: UNK Graduate Studies.

**Wednesday, February 26th:**
Completed Mid-Semester Grade Check Forms are due to the TSLC office by 5 PM.

**Wednesday, February 26th:**
2nd-Year Scholars: Interview Skills Presentation and Community Dinner with Alumni. From 6:00-8:00 PM in the NUS Ponderosa Room E.

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**Spring 2020 TSLC Study Hours**

Study hours will begin on Monday, January 27th, 2020. 1st-Year students are required to complete 60 minutes of study hours every week through Thursday, April 23rd. Students will not need to complete study hours during Spring Break week, March 23rd – 27th. Students who do not complete study hours as required will have to meet with Julie Smith.

Please note that this semester there will be no study hours in the Mantor Hall Seminar Room. The TSLC PALs and Study Hour Proctors will be facilitating the expanded TSLC study hours in the UNK Library during these hours on a weekly basis:

**UNK Library**
Monday – Thursday (11:00 AM – 9:00 PM)

Study hour incentives will be offered this semester. The top five students with the most minutes will be rewarded at the end of the semester. Students who attend every week will also receive an incentive. The student with the most accumulated hours will receive up to $50 in merchandise from the UNK Antelope Bookstore.

If you have questions about TSLC study hours, please contact Julie Smith at the TSLC Office, by email at smithja5@unk.edu, or by calling the office at 308-865-8364.

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**TSLC Mentor Applications for 2020-2021:**
Due February 7, 2020

The Thompson Scholars Learning Community is currently accepting applications for TSLC mentors during the 2020-2021 academic year. The mentor position is open to any Thompson Scholar who will be enrolled full-time at UNK during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (12+ credit hours) and have obtained sophomore academic status (more than 27 credit hours completed) by end of Summer 2020. At the time of application, preference for interviews will be given to students who have earned at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA; applicants who have earned below that cumulative GPA may not receive full consideration for an interview.

The TSLC mentor position has a time commitment of approximately 10 hours per week, and is a great way to give back to the community while building skills in communication, time management, and leadership. Compensation for the mentor positions will be a double room and board waiver for Mantor Hall and the Loper Meal Plan for the 2020-2021 academic year. The mentor role will differ in 2020-2021 from prior years; please direct questions about the mentor position to Yao. If you are interested in applying, please email Yao (zhengc1@unk.edu) to receive the application materials and instructions for securing recommendations. Applications and recommendations are due by Friday, February 7th, 2020, at 5PM to receive full consideration.
Student of the Week

Name: Caleb Hendrickson
Hometown: Shickley, NE
Major: Political Science and Ag Business

What is the best part about being a Thompson Scholar? The learning community provides me with motivation and guidance to stay on top of my classes, but still being able to have a good time with friends.

What's a movie you can practically quote from start to finish? The Shawshank Redemption.

Where is your favorite place to visit and why? Washington DC. I've had the most influential weeks of my life in that city, and it's where I met some of my closest friends in life. I'll never forget the people and memories I've made there.

What is one food that you would never give up? Homemade tortillas. They go with literally everything, and there's something about them that reminds me of home.

What was the best concert you ever attended? I saw Shinedown and Papa Roach in Lincoln last spring, easily the best overall concert experience I've ever been to.

If you could have a conversation with any historical figure, who would it be? Alexander Hamilton. He's the sum of the American Dream, a poor immigrant who worked and worked, and is now one of the most influential figures in American history.

What is the best book or series you have ever read? Harry Potter, a cliché sure, but still one of the greatest works of fiction ever written.

New: TSLC Community Conversations

The TSLC Office is piloting a new series of events for the spring 2020 semester: TSLC Community Conversations. These events will have a casual, open-house type of environment and are open to UNK Thompson Scholars, TSLC alumni, UNK faculty, staff, and administrators. Refreshments will be served.

Each monthly gathering will showcase a featured guest in a particular area of interest to students, with whom Thompson Scholars can interact in an informal setting. Scholars will be able to collect information, ask questions, and receive feedback from these featured experts. Since they will be less of a formal presentation and more of a come-and-go discussion, our hope is that it provides you with a chance to seek out information and ask questions you might otherwise shy away from.

Even if the featured topic doesn’t seem to interest you, we want you to come, hang out, and talk. That's why we are calling them Community Conversations. They will be open to all Thompson Scholars, from first year students to “super-seniors” and will take place in the Mantor Hall Main Lounge once a month. You will be able to connect with old TSLC friends, as well as meet new Thompson Scholars from various cohorts, and network with UNK faculty and staff.

Community Conversations will kick off on Tuesday, January 28th, from 3:30 – 4:30 PM with the featured guests being representatives from Academic Advising and Career Development. The primary topic will be Handshake: what it is, how you can use it, and how it can help you search for a career.

The next Community Conversations session will take place on Monday, February 17th, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM with representatives from UNK Graduate Studies. Students will be able to find out more about the graduate programs UNK has to offer along with other why’s and how’s of graduate school.

On Tuesday, March 17th, from 3:30 – 4:30 PM students can meet with representatives from the Nebraska College of Law to find out more about what degree programs are offered through the NU College of Law, the application process, and what to know before taking the LSAT.

Finally, Community Conversations will close out the semester on Monday, April 13th, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM with guests from the UNK Offices of Business Services & Human Resources. Students can learn more about what to look for in a benefits package when they move into their full-time job, how to select an insurance plan, and what a 401K is. Major mentoring in adulting skills available at this session!

We are very excited about these new community events and hope that you will be, too. While each session will have a primary topic of interest, please know that all are welcome to come and hang out as a community member. Take a break from your day to enjoy some conversation, information, and yummy refreshments.

The TSLC Program welcomes new transfer Thompson Scholars to UNK, and welcomes back the returning Thompson Scholars for the Spring 2020 term. We look forward to working with you towards your academic and personal goals this semester!