### Upcoming Events:

**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.

**Wednesday, March 4th:**
1st-Year Scholars: Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Presentation and Dessert Social. From 6:30-8:00 PM in NSU Ponderosa Room E.

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### National Student Exchange: Apply Now!

Applications are being accepted now for participation in the National Student Exchange (NSE) Program. National Student Exchange (NSE) is a program that allows UNK students the opportunity to go on exchange for one or two semesters to one of over 180 different colleges and universities within the U.S. UNK is the only school in Nebraska that participates in NSE. Many times, UNK students can continue to pay UNK’s tuition rate while on exchange, or they pay the visiting schools in-state tuition rate. You can view the list of exchange colleges at the following website: [https://www.unk.edu/student_resources/national-student-exchange/index.php](https://www.unk.edu/student_resources/national-student-exchange/index.php)

Currently, Thompson Scholar Krynn Arbuck is on NSE in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Krynn shares, "National Student Exchange allows students to be a student at a university of their choice while a student at UNK. Courses possibly not offered at UNK can be offered at your NSE campus. Participating in NSE has given me a more opened mind to new experiences and people. Traveling so far from home has given me the ability to adapt to new situations while meeting new friends and professionals I will keep in contact with for years to come."

In order to be eligible, students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, have sophomore standing at the time of placement, be a full-time student, and be in good standing at UNK. Students interested in participating in the NSE program need to submit an application, which includes a study statement and 3 letters of recommendation. Applications are available in the UNK Admissions Office. **The application deadline is February 21st and includes a $250 non-refundable application fee.** Students will be notified of their placements in early March after a placement exchange takes place. If you are interested in participating in the NSE program, please contact Lee Ann Amm directly at amml@unk.edu or 308-865-8526. Lee Ann will also be sharing about NSE with the 1st-Year scholars in early February at the community dinner.

Thompson Scholars must also complete a request form to receive funding/approval to participate in NSE: STBF reviews each request and approves scholarship funds on a case-by-case basis. The request form includes all of the details about eligibility and the deadlines are listed below. [https://app.buffettscholarships.org/request/StudyAbroad](https://app.buffettscholarships.org/request/StudyAbroad)

**Deadline to request approval of scholarship funds for National Student Exchange:**
- For the fall semester - August 1st
- For the spring semester - December 1st
- For the summer semester - April 1st

If you have questions about NSE and the Buffett Scholarship, please contact the TSLC Office for assistance.
Student of the Week

Name: Jennifer Nava

Hometown: Lexington, NE

Major: Deciding

What is the best part about being a Thompson Scholar? The best part about being a Thompson Scholar is having such a vast support system and having a sense of belonging within a community.

What motivates you? My family motivates me tremendously; their continuous support never fails to amaze me.

What experience in life has made you a stronger person? My recent car accident has allowed me to have a different perspective on life and my surroundings.

What do you wish your phone could do? I wish my phone would allow me to teleport myself around the world.

What sound or smell do you love? I love the smell of warm vanilla sugar during the fall/winter.

What is one food that you would never give up? One food that I would never give up is pasta alfredo.

What do you binge-watch? I enjoy binge-watching Orange is the New Black.

What was the best concert you ever attended? The best concert I have attended was Kane Brown at Nebraska Land Days last summer!

What are you grateful for? I am grateful to be able to obtain an education at UNK and to be surrounded by people who care for my future.

TSLC Spotlight: Emely Diaz

The TSLC Office has welcomed Emely Diaz to the staff this spring to assist at the front desk as we hire a new office associate, and then continuing to work in several capacities with students while a staff member is on leave later this semester. Emely has been a Thompson Scholar, a Mentor, a Peer Academic Leader, and a New Student Enrollment Summer Assistant for TSLC during her undergraduate years; Emely graduated in December 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree.

- How has the TSLC impacted your life when you were a student? TSLC has impacted my life as a student in a very meaningful way. The staff members and student leaders have provided a great amount of academic and personal support throughout my entire education at UNK.
- When you had struggles as a student, how did you overcome them? Every time I was struggling or needed help, I would ask for help. I know it can be difficult at times asking for help or reaching out to your support system (friends, family, mentors, etc.) but life is so much easier when you have someone that can help you overcome different struggles and life events. My biggest advice is to reach out and ask for help when you need it!
- What do you love about working with the UNK TSLC? I love the positive environment and all the Thompson Scholars! I love meeting all the scholars and creating memories.
- You’ve been working for TSLC for a few weeks now. What have you learned already about the program that you didn’t know before? I’ve learned so many new things about the program and the new exciting changes that will be happening this semester. I have also learned about the different administrative tasks and the “behind doors” duties staff members have. I admire them so much for all the work they do for the program!
- What do you want Thompson Scholars to know about their experience as you look back as an alumni of the program? Enjoy the program and get to know the scholars in your cohort! You never know when you will need a helping hand and who you can reach out to.

TSLC Mentor Applications Due 2/7/20

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.

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.