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, 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.

Handshake: Develop Your Student Account

Handshake. You’ve heard of it. You probably know a little bit about it. But do you know everything it can do for you? Yes, it can help you find a job on campus, but its usefulness goes way beyond that. For example, with Handshake you can connect with Academic Advising and Career Development to enhance your interview skills or improve your résumé and cover letter. You can always be in the know on upcoming events, employer visits, career fairs, and internship opportunities.

Handshake is a nationwide employment community platform that can help you find jobs and internships while still in college, and full-time jobs after college. By creating a profile and uploading your résumé you can search for jobs matching your career interests. Plus, lots of major employers use Handshake to recruit new employees. If you opt to make your profile public, employers can seek you out.

Stop in at the upcoming Community Conversation to chat with our featured guest, the Office of Academic Advising and Career Development, to talk about how to set up your profile, connect with employers, and stay competitive through Handshake. The event runs from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, but feel free to come and go as you please.
**Student of the Week**

Name: Phadiziana (Lulu) Smith-Whiteside

Hometown: Omaha, NE

Major: Social Work

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**What is the best part about being a Thompson Scholar?** The best part of being a Thompson Scholar is to know you will always have another family away from home at home (house of the Lopers), plus you will always have a support system.

**What motivates you?** Being first generation motivates me as well as my big and little siblings back at home, plus my parents. My family deserves a better lifestyle and I want to be the one that gives them that.

**What experience in life has made you a stronger person?** An experience in my life that made me stronger is surviving with my family under the circumstances of not having our own home for a while.

**What sound or smell do you love?** I love the smell of a seafood boil and I love the sound of crunchy leaves.

**What do you binge-watch?** I binge-watch *Star* and *Empire*.

**If you could have a conversation with any historical figure, who would it be?** If I could have a conversation with any historical figure it would be Aaliyah.

**What is the best book or series you have ever read?** The best book I’ve read is called *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

**What is your greatest hidden talent/skill?** My greatest hidden talent is that I can sing.

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**TSLC Spotlight: Rachelle Warner**

TSLC has hired Rachelle Warner to be our next TSLC office associate. Rachelle will begin her new role on February 10th. She has provided some information to help the community learn about her: you may even see her around campus before then to welcome her to the TSLC family!

**Who am I?** I am from Elm Creek, NE. I’ve lived there for 19 years. I’m married and have two children; Megan – Senior in Elm Creek, Luke – Freshman in Elm Creek. Most of my working career has been with CHI Good Samaritan Hospital. I worked there for 24 years before I worked at UNK. I’ve been in the Chancellor’s Office for a year and a half. But who am I? I am a Christian, wife and mom. I’m more of an optimist than a pessimist. My cup is half full instead of empty; unless it’s a diet coke. I love diet coke!

**Why am I looking forward to working with TSLC:** I’m looking forward to working with staff and students that have like-minded goals; to be the best you can be! I’m excited to be part of a community that looks for the best in their education. That doesn’t mean the paths are the same for every student, that would be boring. I like to have fun.) How a person deals with the high’s and low’s of life are an indication of the type of person they are. I love that this program is a mentor to students and I feel privileged that I get to be part of that. What a blessing!

**What do I love about UNK:** I love the history and heritage of UNK. My father is a graduate of Kearney State College. He is 81. My education took me on a different path, but I love this school. It is big enough for students to find their “group” of people. There is such talent here! I love how UNK celebrates and welcomes their students. It starts with Blue/Gold week. “What do you want to be part of here?” I love that. *Be Blue, Be Gold, Be Bold!* This campus is small enough to get to know your professors and teachers. Your best education is available, right here! I also love the diversity of this college. Learning other cultures will grow our knowledge and respect for others. This is a great school to be part of….and TSLC is a wonderful piece of the whole pie!

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**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.