The Diversity Speaker: Dr. Maura Cullen

On Tuesday, February 12th, Dr. Maura Cullen will be presenting “Taking Adversity Out of Diversity” for the learning community. This is a required event for TSCL 1st and 2nd year students, but all Thompson Scholars are welcome to attend the presentation. Two sessions will be offered; one from 4:30-6:00 PM and another from 7:30-9:00 PM. The registration link has been distributed to all Thompson Scholars via Lopermail. The Thompson Scholars Learning Community appreciates the partnership with the Department of Counseling and School Psychology in presenting this educational session. If you have any questions, please contact Yao in the TSLC Office. Learn more about Dr. Cullen at: http://www.mauracullen.com/

Seeking Out Opportunities to Volunteer

Students need letters of recommendation and résumés with relevant experiences as they move towards professional careers. Thus, an excellent way to commit time and energy is to secure volunteer work. Certainly, students may hear about opportunities to provide valuable service in shorter time segments, such as by taking part in ARC Honey Sunday or The Big Event. However, to build relationships and demonstrate skills in-depth, students should seek out options that can result in committing time regularly. A great way to start this process is to identify your areas of interest or passions, or to pinpoint skill sets you wish to build through new experiences; challenge yourself to get a outside of your comfort zone as you generate ideas. Next, talk with faculty or staff members, and other students to see if they have any referrals for you; well-connected individuals may be able to help you make an initial contact or even make you aware of a program that is a perfect fit for your interests.

Considering opportunities that connect with your major or minor makes sense long-term. For instance, if you are considering working with children in the future, outreach to organizations like the YMCA, the Friends Program, or TeamMates would be a great start. Local museums such as the Trails and Rails Museum, MONA, the Children’s Museum, and The Archway may also provide opportunities to volunteer regularly or at special programs. If advocacy/education for special populations is of interest to you, you might reach out to The Safe Center, Crossroads Center, CASA, Kearney Literacy Council, or the Kearney Area Animal Shelter. For students wanting a connection in the health care field, many assisted living homes and nursing homes seek volunteers, as well as agencies such as The American Cancer Society, AseraCare Hospice, and The Agency on Aging.

While providing service to others is a way to give, students will certainly receive benefits too. Developing pertinent experiences and generating professional references is necessary for undergraduates, and positively impacts the Kearney community. Get involved and make a difference!

Upcoming Events:

Monday, February 11th:
TSLC Success Session: Study Abroad Student Panel at 4:30 PM in Copeland Hall 130.

Tuesday, February 12th:
Diversity Speaker Dr. Maura Cullen at 4:30-6:00 PM or 7:30-9:00 PM in the NSU Ponderosa Room E. All 1st and 2nd-Year Thompson Scholars must sign-up for one of the two sessions.

Thursday, February 21st:
TSLC Success Session: So You Want to Live Off Campus? at 3:30 PM in Copeland Hall 140.

Wednesday, February 27th:
Mid-Semester Grade Check Forms are due to the TSLC Office by 5:00 PM.

Tuesday, March 5th:
TSLC Success Session: Undergraduate Research at UNK at 4:30 PM in Copeland Hall 130.

Friday, March 8th:
Last day to drop a full-semester course at UNK via MyBlue. Please see your advisors and a TSLC staff member before dropping courses.

Monday, March 11th:
Education Opportunities Fair for 2nd-Year Thompson Scholars (Education majors). 9:00-11:00 AM at the College of Education Bldg.

Wednesday, March 13th:
TSLC Success Session: How to Write a Cover Letter at 4:00 PM in Copeland Hall 130.

March 18th-22nd:
UNK Spring Break; no classes.
Mid-Semester Grade Check Form Due 2/27/19

The TSLC Mid-Semester Grade Check Form has been distributed to Thompson Scholars via email today; completion is required as part of our program expectations for 1st and 2nd-Year Thompson Scholars, for Spring transfer TSLC students, as well as Thompson Scholars on scholarship probation, learning community warning, or academic warning with the TSLC Program. The form will require students to calculate their GPA once all grades have been collected; please use the suggested GPA calculator on the form. This form is due to the TSLC Office by Wednesday, February 27th at 5 PM; please have it folded or in an envelope when you turn it in to keep your academic information private. The TSLC office will make copies of your completed grade check form for you to submit to other programs or offices upon your request.

Mid-semster grade checks are helpful to students in several ways. First, the form provides a chance for students to gauge where they are academically given the scholarship requirements to keep a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Second, the process allows students to compare the current grade against the syllabus, so that goals can be set for the remainder of the semester. Third, completing grade checks presents an opportunity for students to interact with faculty members and have conversations about the current grade in individual classes. Fourth, it gives students the chance to consider if they need to drop a class prior to the final day to drop classes, which is March 8th, 2019.

We suggest you visit your faculty members during their office hours to have them complete the forms with your accurate grade; please use good manners when requesting signatures from instructors. While some instructors may know your grades and may be willing to sign at the end of class, it would be most appropriate to not rush them between classes. Please contact your instructor to see what they would prefer in terms of a time for completing the form, which also gives them time to adequately assess your grade.

Grade check forms will be reviewed by TSLC Staff; a TSLC staff member will contact a student for an individual meeting if a course grade or the overall GPA is low. Any questions or concerns about the deadline for grade report forms should be directed ahead of the deadline to a staff member at the TSLC Office.

Student of the Week

Name: Baylee Brownawell
Hometown: Hershey, NE
Major: Biology and PE Education

What is the best part about being a Thompson Scholar? The best part about being a Thompson Scholar is being a part of the community and having all of the support we have as students.

What would you like to be doing in twenty years? Teaching and helping students achieve their goals in school.

If you could time-travel, where would you go? The 80s or 90s.

What do you binge-watch? One Tree Hill.

What is the most incredible item or exhibit you have ever seen in a museum? Michael Jordan’s letter of intent to play basketball at UNC.

What would you be willing to wait in a really long line for? Meeting Rascal Flatts.

What scares you? Spiders and snakes.

If you had your own talk show, whom would you want to interview? Brook Berringer.

What family traditions do you plan to carry on as you get older? Sitting down and eating at the table as a family.

If you had unlimited resources, what scientific or medical problem would you work to solve? Cancer.

What are you grateful for? My family and friends.

Professional Portrait Session: Feb. 27th

On February 27th, the TSLC office will host a professional portrait session for Thompson Scholars. This event is aimed to help the TSLC students build professional profiles. It is open to all TSLC students and sign-up is required. The sign up link has been sent to Thompson Scholars via Lopermail. Please sign up by Monday, February 25th at 5:00 PM, if you are interested. Business attire is required for the portrait session.

The portrait session will take place between 2:00 PM-5:00 PM in the Mantor Seminar Room. Students who do not sign-up may come to the event to see if time is available on a walk-in basis, but there is no guarantee of a photo without registering for a time slot. If you have any questions, please contact Yao Zheng in the TSLC Office.

Sign-up is open now: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0948A9AA2AA4F85-tslc3