



Mission >>> Familiarize staff and employees with Leadership opportunities at UNK and opportunities in the Kearney area.. - - unk.edu/leadership-unk

Take The Lead

Leadership UNK Class #15

Six staff members were selected for the 2021-2022 Leadership UNK class. Check out the [UNK News](#) article that was published and please feel free to reach out to the new members to offer a welcome!

- **Stefani Wegner**– Health Sciences
- **Renee Mitchell** - Human Resources
- **Heidi Knake** - International Education
- **Olivia Whittaker** - Registrar’s Office
- **Bethany Johnson** - Kinesiology and Sports Sciences
- **Shelby Nethercot** - Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Leadership UNK Alumni Spotlight >>> Renae Zimmer



Hometown:
Hartington, NE

Department:
Student Engagement / Student Union

Job Title:
Assistant Director, Student / Family Transitions

Job Responsibilities:
Ours is a resource office that connects 1st year and transfer students with all things UNK. We coordinate events such as Blue and Gold Welcome Week and Welcome Back Week.

Hobbies:
I enjoy attending sporting events and concerts with my husband. We also enjoy checking out new restaurants and craft beer places.

In 3 words, describe what true leadership looks like to you:
Communication is a big one. Knowing your strengths and capitalizing on them. Utilizing opportunities to think strategically.

If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be and why:
I would be a barista. For me it would be not just about the coffee but also the conversation. I love getting to know people, so it would be interesting to get to know the customers.

Tell us something that might surprise us about you:
I worked as a nanny in Chicago for 2 summers.

final thoughts...

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”
-John C. Maxwell

August session >>>

Attitude and Leadership

Led by Dawn Cromer, Rachelle Warner & Scott Olson

On Wednesday, August 3rd, Leadership UNK launched the 2021-2022 year with a new class of 6 members from several departments across campus. Members met for the first time as a class at Discovery Hall. Co-chairs Matt Allbright and Danielle Kluver welcomed the class and provided an introduction to Leadership UNK. This year's book, *Why Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't*, by Simon Sinek was distributed.

Personal and professional goals were set by each member and facilitator Dawn Cromer led meet and greet activities. Each member selected another to "introduce" at the September session, providing an opportunity for one-on-one conversation outside of monthly sessions. Speaker Greg Shea, Financial Adviser at Edward Jones, spoke on the session topic of attitude and leadership. He shared the value of a positive attitude, resilience and the importance of making time to connect with others in a meaningful way. His energetic presentation was well received by the class. After an exciting round of UNK building trivia, the class met with past Leadership UNK members for lunch at Louie's Diner.



September session >>>

Communication & Networking

Led by Lynelle Fritzen and Darlene Sandoval

Leadership UNK's September session topic was communication and networking. Class members met in the Nebraskan Student Union and began the day with a brief discussion on class materials and expectations. Facilitator Lynelle Fritzen led the class in a game of telephone charades, which resulted in many laughs. Lucas Dart, UNK Alumni Director of Alumni Relations and Development and Kristin Howard, UNK Alumni Special Programs Director spoke to the class about networking tips. A dynamic team, Lucas and Kristin shared networking anecdotes that were both informative and comical. The presentation also included tips on creating a tailored personal pitch, the power of a strong network and the importance of confidence in positive communication.

Brenda Jochum and Alyse Pflanz presented on the power of communication and networking. Through the presentation, the class gained insight on ways to leverage their communication strengths as well as strategies for implementing effective workplace communication. Brenda led the class in an activity which allowed each member to highlight and share their communication strengths. Each member created a drawing, map or list of their strengths and presented to the class. To enhance communication between class members, a team building activity involving the navigation of a ball around a tarp was completed. The session wrapped up with a thoughtful book discussion and members were given handouts for potential volunteer opportunities on campus.



Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders TODAY!