Aaron Davis is a professional speaker, coach, trainer, and attitude expert. His presentation equips audiences with the tips, tools and techniques necessary to live with the attitude of a champion and to personally and professionally push for their best, no matter what.

---

**Leadership UNK Alumni Spotlight >>>
Kristie Artz**

**Hometown:**
Kearney, Nebraska

**Department:**
Office of Financial Aid

**Job Title:**
Financial Aid Counselor/Scholarship Coordinator

**Job Responsibilities:**
I am in charge of continuing student scholarships and updating scholarship information. I serve as a financial aid counselor for a portion of our students, fielding all kinds of questions about financial aid. I also organize Early Awareness Day, which is an event that reaches out to elementary students to get them thinking about college early.

**Hobbies:**
Online Yahtzee, crafting, and lots of activities with my kids’ schools. I also like to do community service.

**In 3 words, describe what true leadership looks like to you:**
Patient, open, and encouraging.

**If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be and why:**
I think I would work for Child Protective Services. I love working with kids and I feel like there are so many children out there who need someone in their corner.

**Tell us something that might surprise us about you:**
This is hard because I’m kind of an open book. In a past life, I sold hydraulic and pneumatic equipment to factories.

---

“**If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”**

- John Quincy Adams
Dec 13 - December 2019 - January 2020

December session

Diversity and Advocating

On a frosty December morning, the Leadership UNK class met on the third floor of the Nebraskan Student Union to learn about the topics of Diversity and Advocacy. A panel of six presenters from across campus discussed their areas of concentration, such as disabilities (physical or mental), first generation students, PRISM (LGBTQ+), international students, students with military backgrounds, and the Big Blue Cupboard. In a casual atmosphere of small groups, the class had the opportunity to ask questions and hear the specifics of what these professionals do every day to make UNK a welcoming, inclusive environment for all students.

Next, with her wealth of experience, Jake Jacobsen shared with the class her fundamentals of public speaking, which she calls The Four Pillars. As she explained, a speaker must first know him/herself. A personal mission statement is a good first step in this process. Next, a speaker needs to understand who the audience is and speak credibly to that audience. Lastly, speakers should pay close attention to the words they use, words that do not tear down, but communicate in a positive manner.

The session finished with a game, a fun way to look at the serious topic of privilege. Each participant was assigned an identity of a person: some with advantages of a stable family and childhood, others with marginal socioeconomic advantages and some with very few advantages. As the participants took their characters through life, they were able to see the struggles that some people face when they have started life with disadvantages rather than stability and socioeconomic promise.

January session

Recognition and Coaching

The session devoted to the topic of Recognition and Coaching started with a smaller group of 6 people, due to illnesses and other commitments. But those six members of the class did a great job of interacting with the speakers and topics and made the morning informative and fun.

The first speaker was Dr. Ryan Teten who spoke on the importance of valuing your team. He discussed tools to understand how the people on your team work and the elements of interpersonal effectiveness. Following on this topic, Coach Josh Lynn spoke on coaching and some of the techniques he uses to develop a cohesive and talented football team. He showed how we can use a simple visual cue and catch phrases to help our teams remember our broad goals and the everyday goals.

Chancellor Christensen then visited the group and gave an informal talk about the importance of Leadership UNK, the vision he has for this university and the value each person brings to the institution. The group appreciated his time and willingness to answer their questions.

The morning finished with a personal activity drawn from information from the book selection, Conscious Leadership. Each person looked at the four elements of “Masterful Appreciation” and wrote a thank-you note to someone in his/her life. It was a reflective way to integrate the topics of the morning in a personal gratitude.
During holiday breaks when food services and the campus offices are closed, the Big Blue Cupboard will make food supplies available to UNK students by placing them on a table in the food court in the Nebraskan Student Union. This area is open to students with a student ID 24 hours a day during these breaks, so students can access needed food resources. In the month of November, Leadership UNK sponsored a food drive for the Big Blue Cupboard to help provide support for students in need during the Thanksgiving holiday break.

From November 11th to November 25th, a healthy competition was encouraged between campus departments to donate the largest number of items. Departments collected their donations and brought them to a collection table outside of the ODI Office on November 25th. A total of 2144 food items were collected just in time for the snow-induced extended Thanksgiving break, including ramen, granola bars, cereal, canned soup, and many other items.

The Office of Financial Aid came out on top as the winner with a total of 557 items. Thus, they are the recipient of the first annual “Golden Noodle” award. As the winners, Financial Aid will be the proud holders of the “Golden Noodle” traveling trophy for the year. The trophy is a handsome, well-crafted badge of honor that will be coveted by future competitors in this contest against food insecurity.

If you have any questions about the Big Blue Cupboard or would like to help please contact Monica Mueller, muellermr@unk.edu.