



**Mission >>>** Familiarize staff and employees with Leadership opportunities at UNK

## Take The Lead

### *Leadership UNK Class #17*

Twelve staff members were selected for the 2023-2024 Leadership UNK class. Check out the [News UNK](#) article that was published and please feel free to reach out to the new members to offer a welcome!

**Dawn Bickford, Loper Spirit Shop**

**Kaylyn Burnham, Facilities, Occupational Support**

**Julie Calahan, Health Sciences**

**Kayla Fix, UNK Online – TCP**

**Kelly Tuttle Krahling, Student Engagement**

**Tim Moulton, Undergraduate Admissions Office**

**Karlee Nuttleman, Fraternity and Sorority Life/ Student Engagement**

**Madison Sanford, Academic Recourses and Institutional Research**

**Koree Schueler, Chief Diversity Office/Office of Equity and Compliance**

**Amanda Sue La Paz Torres, Financial Aid**

**Megan Telecky, Facilities Management & Planning**

**Ashley Zikmund, Graduate Studies and Academic Outreach**

### *Leadership UNK Alumni Spotlight >>> Peggy Abels*

**Hometown:** Ewing, NE

**Department:** Health Sciences

**Job Title:** Director of Health Sciences

**Job Responsibilities:**

Coordination and oversight of Health Sciences including advising, recruitment, building and expansion of the rural pipeline program, healthcare workforce development and outreach, management of scholarship programs, and other student success initiatives related to Health Science students.

**Hobbies:**

Golf, Hiking, Reading, Playing the Piano, Spending time with Family

**In 3 words, describe what true leadership looks like to you:**

Listening, Team-Building, and Leading by Example

**If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be and why:**

I love my job and cannot imagine doing anything else.

**Tell us something that might surprise us about you:**

As a summer job in college, I took aerial photography of cropland to verify the number of acres farmers planted. I spent 8 hours day in the back of tiny plane on a bean bag taking pictures through a hole in the bottom of the plane.



### *Final thoughts...*

**“If you want change to happen, something will have to be changed.”**



August session >>>

Orientation & Clifton Strengths

Led by Sharon Johnson & Deena Schleiger

Leadership UNK’s class # 17 met for the first time on August 9, 2023, in the Communication Center’s conference room. Co-Chairs Sharon Johnson and Deena Schleiger welcomed the 12 new members by giving each person an incorrect name tag. After everyone arrived, the class then found the person with their actual name tag and introduced themselves along with three fun facts. They continued to mingle until everyone had their own name tag.

Prior to their first meeting, the class received their book entitled “Strengths Based Leadership” by Don Clifton and took their assessment to receive both their top 5 strengths and another leadership report. Brenda Jochum, Associate Director, Student Development in the CBT Career Center, and a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach led the discussion. The class members not only learned about strengths but were also able to apply this knowledge in many interactive activities.

Later in the morning, Dr. Julie Shaffer, Interim Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs spoke to the class about her past experiences as a leader and how that has led her to her current role at UNK. Pertaining to leadership roles, Dr. Shaffer emphasized work-life balance, mentorship, confidentiality, putting in the effort, and advocating for yourself.

Finally, Dr. Megan Adkins, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies & Academic Outreach engaged the class with an activity to demonstrate her main points: 1—Leadership is not about you and 2—Leadership is about you. Dr. Adkins also explained the many programs and outreaches the department of Graduate Studies & Academic Outreach serves.

After a full morning of learning and engagement, the class met many Leadership UNK alumni for lunch and time to connect at The Graze in the Nebraskan Student Union.



Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders TODAY!



September session >>>

Networking & Mentoring

Led by Koree Schueler & Megan Telecky

The Leadership UNK class met in the Clubhouse, Village Flats at University Village for their September 2023 session.

After a short “hello” and introduction for the day, Koree Schueler and Megan Telecky led the group book review discussion. The whole class had some great takeaways from the first section of our book on strengths-based leadership. Our starting icebreaker activity prepared the group for our networking and mentoring presentations. It focused on how to start a conversation.

Next, Michael Christen, Executive Director at University Village gave a presentation with three different activities focused on networking. The first activity was focused on networking with strangers and breaking down the awkwardness. The second one addressed stepping beyond superficial conversation to create a connection with someone. The final activity aimed to get more personal and connected with others at a deeper level, not just work related. At the end, Michael talked about the future plans for University Village and gave the class a tour of the Element 30 apartments.

Our second speaker of the morning was Scott Shafer, Head Tennis Coach presenting his view of mentoring. Scott’s main points were that mentoring doesn’t have to be stuffy, proper, or done by someone older than you. Anyone can be a mentor. Mentoring is just sharing relevant knowledge and experiences in a candid and honest way that benefits the recipient. The most important aspect of mentoring is developing a relationship and connect personally like Michael stressed in networking.

We wrapped up our session with a fun M&M game that again developed their speaking skills with others and a quick review of the upcoming October events.