

TAKE THE LEAD

Leadership UNK Newsletter

MAY '25

LUNK GRADUATION CLASS OF 2024-2025

Kate DeBord	Amanda Keeting
William Frederick	Whitney Kuta
Amber Gapp	Valeria Lozano
Amber Aight	Amanda Ransdell
Steph Hoffman	Jack Scrimger
Eileen Jahn	Kianted Stuart
Lauren Jensen	Abel Virgilio



LUNK CLASS OF 2024-2025

The Leadership UNK Graduation for the Class of 2024-2025 took place on April 30th at 2:30pm in the Regional Engagement Center Gala South. Our members and guests were welcomed by BOG President, Sharon Johnson. The class was then addressed by Dr Chance Bell, who was chosen to speak by the class, as one of their favorite presenters this year. Each LUNK class member then gave a Mission Statement, received gifts from the LUNK Board of Graduates and watched a slideshow created by the class co-chairs, Julie Calahan and Tim Moulton. Outgoing LUNK BOG members Stefani Wegner and Olivia Whittaker were recognized for their service. Finally, our inaugural Leadership UNK Awards were presented to Megan Goeke (Founders Award) and Travis Reynolds (Campus Leadership Award).

Apply for LUNK 2025-26!

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!
JOIN THE LUNK CLASS OF 2025-2026
APPLY BY MAY 31

Leadership UNK ("LUNK") provides a professional development opportunity for our university staff to build leadership skills, meet and network with other employees, increase knowledge of the university system, discuss pertinent issues at UNK, exchange ideas, and to become familiar with leadership opportunities on campus. Our class participants attend nine half-day sessions and one full-day session from August to May. The full-day meeting includes attendance of a University Board of Regents meeting. In addition to monthly sessions, LUNK members participate in 4-hours of service projects involving UNK programs/events, will attend a UNK Staff Senate Meeting, a LUNK Board of Graduates meeting, and one other campus/community board meeting of choice. Participants in good standing will "graduate" in May. Then, in the year following, the graduates will facilitate a few LUNK sessions for the following class, fulfilling a 2-year commitment.



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NEW! LEADERSHIP UNK AWARDS

We are excited to announce the recipients of the inaugural Leadership UNK Awards, which honor outstanding leadership, service, and dedication among our campus staff.

Megan Goeke, Sr. Online Coordinator & Academic Coach with Graduate Studies & Academic Outreach and a member of the Leadership UNK Class of 2022–23, received the **Founders Award**. This award, given to a Leadership UNK alumni member, recognizes Megan's exceptional commitment to student success and her leadership within the UNK community.

Travis Reynolds, Director of Sponsored Programs in the Office of Sponsored Programs & Research Development, was presented with the **Campus Leadership Award**. This honor is awarded to a UNK staff member who exemplifies the spirit of leadership across campus. Travis's work in advancing research and innovation continues to make a meaningful impact at UNK.

We extend sincere thanks to our Awards Committee members—**Tim Moulton**, **Julie Smith**, and **Kristi Artz-Dorn**—for their thoughtful selection process.

Special appreciation also goes to **Nadine Saylor**, Associate Professor of Glass in the Department of Art and Design, for her creative contributions and to everyone who submitted nominations in recognition of our exceptional staff. Congratulations to Megan and Travis on this well-deserved recognition!

AWARDS HANDMADE
BY NADINE SAYLOR

LUNK MARCH CLASS SESSION

- LOCATION: UNK Library
- LEADERSHIP FOCUS: Culturally Diverse Workplace; Meeting Community Needs
- ACTIVITIES: During the month of March, our LUNK class heard from Dr. Maha about Inclusive Leadership. Dr. Maha inspired many with her presentation about using a broader conceptual framework for leadership. Within this presentation, she focused on self-reflection, personal awareness, recognition of personal biases, blind spots, openness and being comfortable with the comfortable. It was truly an engaging presentation! We were also fortunate to hear from Kristin Nielsen, founder of Access Period. Kristin provided details about Access Period and urged LUNK participants to get involved in their communities and make a difference! The day ended with an Access Period Packing Party.

LUNK APRIL CLASS SESSION

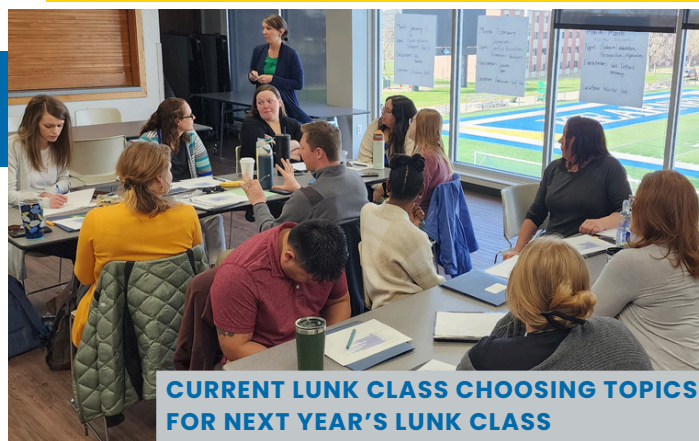
- LOCATIONS: Nebraskan Student Union, Room 310
- LEADERSHIP FOCUS: Psychological Capital with Dr. Kyle Luthans
- ACTIVITIES: We wrapped up our year-long focus on our Clifton Strengths with Megan Goeke. We also had the pleasure of experiencing a captivating presentation by Dr. Luthans on the transformative power of positivity. He highlighted the critical role that Hope, Efficacy, Resilience, and Optimism (HERO) play in enhancing our professional and personal lives. The class ended their final session by reflecting on their journey and planning meaningful experiences for next year's class.

LUNK APRIL PRESENTATION "SCIENCE OF CO-REGULATION"

Maile Ilac Boeder and Abby Miller of the Leadership Center in Aurora, NE hosted a hands-on experience exploring the Science of Co-Regulation. This is a powerful approach to understanding how we show up, support others and stay grounded in our leadership roles. Thank you for those who attended our presentation!

Thank You

OUTGOING
LUNK
BOARD OF
GRADUATE
MEMBERS
**STEFANI
WEGNER
& OLIVIA
WHITTAKER**



CURRENT LUNK CLASS CHOOSING TOPICS
FOR NEXT YEAR'S LUNK CLASS



LUNK MARCH "PACKING PARTY"

On March 12th, UNK Staff, including LUNK alumni, joined Access Period's Executive Director, Kristin Lowrey, for a "Packing Party." located in the basement of the library. Our participant volunteers packed over 300 period bags for communities and schools across Nebraska. It was a fun event that gave back to our community and gave attendees an opportunity to connect with others across campus.