



Urban League of
Nebraska

Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

May-June Highlights

Farrell joins the Urban League Board of Directors



Steve Farrell joins us on the Urban League of Nebraska Board of Directors! Steve joined First National Bank in 2006 and currently serves as Senior Vice President of Consumer Banking Group Operations.

Thank You for Supporting Our Mission!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Urban League of Nebraska's mission of preparing every child and adult for college, work and life during the 2019 Omaha Gives Campaign!

Your contribution will allow us to help students stay in school and out of the juvenile justice system and attend college through our Youth and Education Programs. Moreover, because of your generosity we will help youth and adults develop essential employment skills and find jobs through our Career and Employment services!

We are deeply committed to changing lives in North Omaha. Your contribution emboldens our efforts and sets us on a path to dismantling the wall that stands between our clients and a more prosperous future! Thank you!

A Sold Out Event! 2019 African American Leadership Awards



The 30th Annual African-American Leadership Awards (AALA) successfully brought together various members of the Omaha community to celebrate the talents and achievements of 10 exemplary African-American leaders positively impacting Omaha in the areas of Business, Community, Education, Faith, Government, Medicine, Young Professional, and Youth. Dr. Danita Webb Ph.D. was this year's Someone Special.

The sold out event was a reminder that, while we are a long way from breaking all barriers to prosperity for our most disadvantaged community members, there are leaders working diligently every day to lead us to that end. We hope AALA inspired future leaders to continue building resiliency in their respective sectors and communities. Your impact can be as simple but powerful as "giving girls a space to be," as Ashlei Spivey, this year's award recipient in the Young Professionals category described her work with "I Be Black Girl," of which she is a co-founder!

AALA will continue to celebrate and showcase the leadership of outstanding African-American leaders in various sectors for many years. We can't wait to honor more leaders next year!

Our Summer Programs Explore STEAM and Recover Credits for Graduation



Girls STEAM Academy

About 40 girls are currently participating in the Urban League of Nebraska's STEAM Academy. Led by Urban League staffers Jeffrey Williams, Chandler Hunter, and June Martinez, the girls are engaging in various activities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, agriculture/arts, and math. They've had the opportunity to visit sites around Omaha, including UNMC where they talked with women in the science field and job shadowed a pharmacist. They also conducted a biology experiment at Creighton University.

For the remainder of their time in the STEAM Academy, the STEAM girls will continue to explore STEAM fields while learning about how they can diversify those fields with their own knowledge. The STEAM Academy is the very example of how the Urban League of Nebraska prepares students not only academically and professionally, but also to think critically and solve the hardest questions.

Some of the girls remarked that they decided to participate in the program because they foresee a future in the STEAM field. The majority of them are interested in math and engineering, fields with significantly low percentages of women, let alone women of color. Still, while the girls emanate from different schools and backgrounds, they all agreed to one profound and indisputable fact: representation of women is essential in the STEAM fields and they are ready to diversify it! We cannot wait to see where the STEAM Academy takes them!



Credit Recovery

According to student Bernard, the Credit Recovery program is chiefly helpful because it pushes him to pay attention to and focus solely on his weakest subject without distractions, a difficulty he has at school and home during the regular school year. Alexis, another student, finds the value of Credit Recovery in the quiet, supportive environment it fosters. Unfortunately, students in her regular classes are usually loud, interrupting her learning. Credit Recovery gives her the space to do her work in a quiet environment. She appreciates the support and guidance from Credit Recovery Coordinators Zackary Bowman (third from right) and Eric Williams (far right).

Bernard and Alexis are recovering their core credits so they can chase their dreams of living a better life. Incoming Juniors at North high, both Bernard and Alexis hope to attend college after graduation. Bernard intends to obtain a degree in Engineering. While uncertain about what she will ultimately specialize in at the moment, Alexis hopes to pursue art at some level in college.

Tyron Foster Jr. Shares His College Experience



Every year, the Urban League of Nebraska awards more than thirty \$1,000 need- and merit-based scholarships to graduating students. The scholarship covers college fees and books for graduating seniors who intend on enrolling in college the following academic year. More than that, the scholarship gives students a chance to enjoy and focus on their academics without worrying about the cost of higher education.

Recently, we spoke with Tyron Foster Jr., a former Urban League Scholarship

winner about his college experience as a scholarship recipient. Tyron is a current student at the University of Nebraska Omaha. He intends to major in Sociology or Criminal Justice at UNO. In his remarks, Tyron stressed how the scholarship allowed him to cover the cost of expenses his other scholarships "did not such as extra materials or books for class." This gave him the mental space to focus on his academics so he did not have to compromise his grades over financial burdens.

Chris Wiley Scholarship Awarded to TyVon Smith



Known among circles as a 'real life superhero', North Omaha counselor and teacher, Chris Wiley touched multiple generations of young people. Mr. Wiley passed away July 2018. In his honor, a scholarship was created by Pastor Michael Williams of Risen Sun Baptist Church.

It was no surprise TyVon Smith was awarded the scholarship at the 2019 African American Leadership Awards Gala sponsored by the Urban League of Nebraska Guild on May 31, 2019.

According to the President/CEO, Thomas H. Warren Sr., TyVon embodies Mr. Wiley's spirit of giving back to the community through his exemplary leadership. TyVon recently graduated from Omaha North High School and plans to enroll at Ohio State University in the Fall.

Urban League of Nebraska Participates in the 2019 Juneteenth Parade



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