

Meet the University's Collegebound Nebraska student ambassadors



Freddy Gomez

Campus: UNK

Year: Freshman

Major: Industrial distribution

Quote: “Collegebound Nebraska is probably one of the greatest things that’s ever happened to me here in college... I find it really helpful because I can actually get through college without having to stress that I can’t pay.”

Bio: Freddy is from Omaha and graduated from Omaha Burke. He took honors classes and was involved in extracurriculars in high school so he could be prepared for college life. As a first-generation student, Freddy knows how important a college education is to becoming successful. Although it’s a big transition from Omaha to Kearney, Freddy loves his professors at UNK and the educational opportunities he’s getting. He also enjoys the campus’ diversity, especially its strong population of international students.



Lana Koziol

Campus: UNK

Year: Junior

Major: Recreation management (with a sports administration minor)

Quote: “My biggest piece of advice is to take that time to fill out the FAFSA. Because you never know what you can get out of that.”

Bio: Lana is from Cedar Rapids and is a Cedar Rapids Public Schools graduate. At UNK, she participates in intramural sports, is a member of the student government, and works in the admissions office. After Lana finishes her undergraduate degree, she would like to work toward a master’s degree. As a native of a small town, she says UNK is the perfect fit for her and she enjoys building close relationships with her professors and fellow students.



Tara Nienhueser

Campus: UNK

Year: Junior

Major: Undecided

Quote: “I believe it’s important for me to go to college so I can further advance in my education and one day get a successful job outside of college.”

Bio: Tara is from York and graduated from York High School. She works part-time at a daycare, which is helping her decide whether she wants to pursue a career with children. Tara hasn’t selected a career path yet, but believes UNK has many options to choose from and that whatever she decides, she can be successful. Collegebound Nebraska allows her to devote more time to studying so she can maintain good grades.



Tabitha Paul

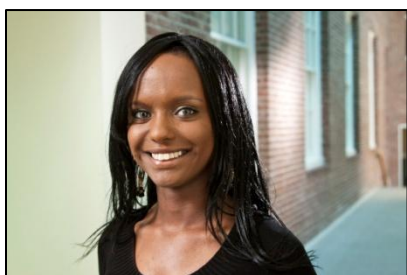
Campus: UNK

Year: Sophomore

Major: Family studies

Quote: “It was important for me to go to college because I realized that I needed more opportunities than just a high school education and I wanted to see what my options were.”

Bio: Tabitha grew up in Gothenburg and graduated from Gothenburg High School. She enjoys being part of the close-knit community at UNK, where she’s on the track team. She says college has given her many opportunities that she otherwise would not have had. Collegebound Nebraska was a difference-maker in her decision to go to college, since without it she would have had a much more significant financial burden.



Misam Ali

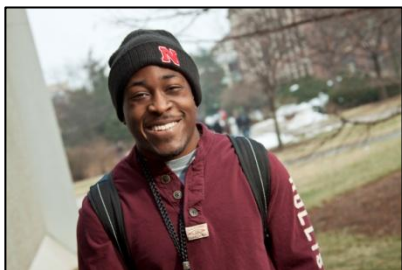
Campus: UNL

Year: Senior

Major: Finance

Quote: “It’s very important for me to go to college because in many ways education is power – and seeing what I would like to do ultimately in the future, education is the key to that door to success.”

Bio: Born in Libya, Misam grew up in Lincoln and graduated from Lincoln Northeast High School. She studied abroad in China after her freshman year in college and interns with the law department at the University of Nebraska Foundation – experiences which have inspired her to pursue a degree in international law. She loves attending a big university like UNL because there are numerous opportunities for students to get involved and find their niche.



Donovon Allen

Campus: UNL

Year: Freshman

Major: Psychology

Quote: “(My mom) was there through the applying process, through my whole life, just telling me that I needed to go to college. So college equaled success in my mind.”

Bio: Donovan is from Omaha and graduated from Omaha Bryan. He is the first in his family to go to college and he gives his mother the credit since she always stressed the importance of a college education. Donovan enjoys the social aspect of college and appreciates the fact that everyone is there for the same reason – to succeed. Now he has another reason to achieve his goals: He has a new baby sister, for whom he wants to be a positive role model.



Brianna Foster

Campus: UNL

Year: Sophomore

Major: Broadcast journalism

Quote: “If I hadn’t come to college I think I would have definitely missed out on a lot of opportunities and resources and network opportunities that I’ve received while here at UNL.”

Bio: Brianna is a native of Omaha and graduated from Omaha Central. She aspires to be a broadcasting correspondent or an editor at a major magazine. As a first-generation student, Brianna says it’s important for her to be able to take advantage of opportunities that her parents never had. She loves that her professors are hands-on and push her to succeed, and that she’s gotten significant real-life experiences in her journalism classes.



Sandy Ngo

Campus: UNL

Year: Freshman

Major: Nutrition sciences

Quote: “A lot of people who are first-generation feel like they don’t have support or they don’t know how to get there, and I think I can be a role model to other first-generation students showing that you can do it.”

Bio: Two decades ago, Sandy’s parents came to the United States from Vietnam in search of better educational opportunities for their children. So she wants to earn a college degree for them. Sandy grew up in Lincoln and graduated from Lincoln High School. She has her hopes set on a medical career and wants to become a doctor working in underserved communities where access to quality health care is a major challenge.



Will Gottner

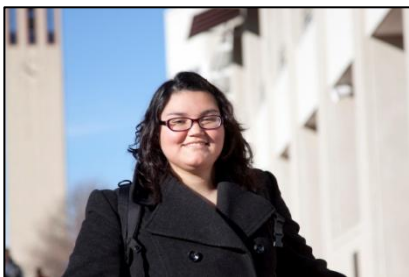
Campus: UNO

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biology

Quote: “College opens up so many options, it’s unbelievable. I mean, there’s so much to do at college – different events, different clubs and organizations. And it also gives you a lot of connections for when you graduate.”

Bio: Raised in Bellevue, Will graduated from Omaha Central. He is the second of 14 children and wants to be a positive role model to his younger siblings. He decided to attend UNO so that he could stay close to his family. Will’s goal is to become a doctor – a dream partially inspired by the day he got to accompany his younger brother to the hospital after he fell off a swing and hit his head on the concrete. Will got to pull the last stitch.



Isis Hernandez

Campus: UNO

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biology, French and Spanish

Quote: “I believe high school students should know that the University of Nebraska offers a wide range of classes where you can do anything from art and science to business to computer tech applications and more things like

that.”

Bio: Isis grew up in Omaha and graduated from Millard South. Isis wants to make her parents proud by going to college and she is the first member of her family to do so. She enjoys the hands-on experience she is gaining in her classes and hopes to go on to medical school after she completes her undergraduate degree. Ultimately, she dreams of becoming a pediatric oncologist and traveling the world serving children who live in developing countries that speak French and Spanish.



Sharon Ward

Campus: UNO

Year: Freshman

Major: Athletic training

Quote: “Because I go to college, I have advantages over other students because I have an education.”

Bio: Sharon grew up in Omaha and graduated from Omaha North High Magnet School. Sharon is considering physical therapy school and ultimately hopes to become an athletic trainer so she can make a difference by helping athletes recover from their injuries more quickly. She loves UNO because the campus is friendly, the professors are always available to help, and there are opportunities to get involved in activities like clubs and intramural sports.



Casey Wilson

Campus: UNO

Year: Sophomore

Major: Speech communications

Quote: “College is just such a great time because it not only helps you plan for your future, but it basically lays your future out for you. You build the connections you need to find the job that you may get later.”

Bio: Casey is originally from Loup City, where she was one of 28 students in her graduating class at Loup City High School. She worked hard to prepare for college, visiting a number of campuses and participating in activities like journalism, speech and art. Casey is the first member of her family to attend college. She is actively involved in the Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship program and is a Thompson Learning Community Mentor. Casey’s goal is to become a college professor.