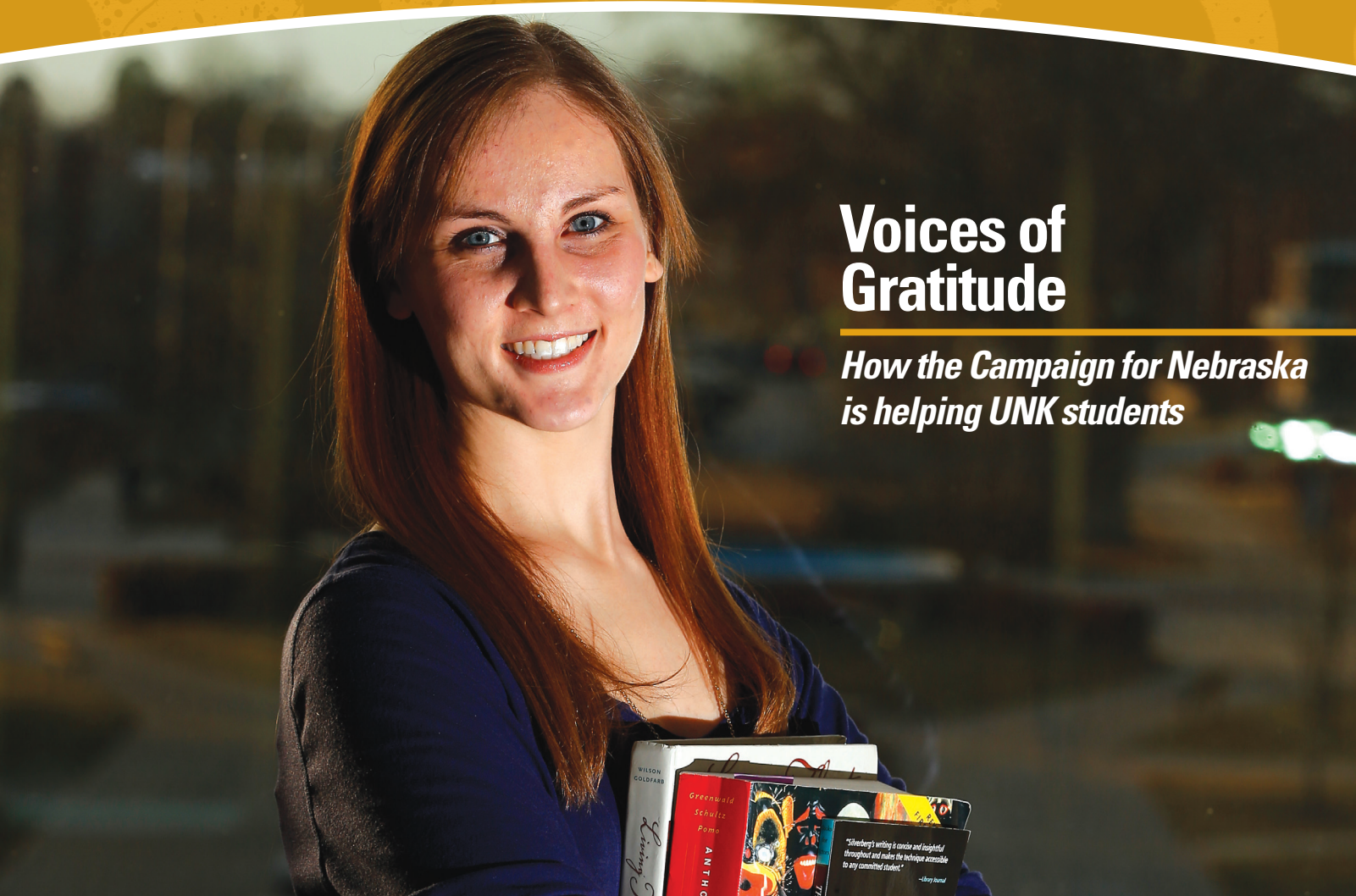


Today

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Voices of Gratitude

How the Campaign for Nebraska is helping UNK students

Mortar Board Wins National Award

Xi Phi Chapter of Mortar Board is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. The Xi Phi Chapter of Mortar Board was chartered at UNK in 1988 and is one of 230 chapters nationwide.

The Xi Phi Chapter of Mortar Board at UNK won the organization's highest national honor – the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award – at the Aug. 1-3 Mortar Board National Conference in Atlanta, Ga. The award is presented annually to the nation's most exceptional chapter.

UNK Senior Advisor Amber Messersmith '01 also won the prestigious Excellence in Advising Award, which is given to the nation's top-three advisors from more than 230 chapters. The honor recognized Messersmith's leadership, professionalism and spirit of service.

In the nomination form submitted by students, Messersmith was credited for guiding the chapter to national prominence and described as “the driving force” behind the organization.

“Dr. Messersmith makes a great effort to get to know each member. She fosters a sense of community within the chapter,” the nomination stated. “She is present at all chapter activities and never hesitates to lend a helping hand to committees.

“She also encourages us to go above and beyond what past groups have done. ... Our advisor has an intense determination to be excellent. She possesses key leadership characteristics including honesty, a positive attitude, the ability to communicate, and the ability to inspire.”



UNK Mortar Board Senior Advisor Amber Messersmith '01 won the prestigious Excellence in Advising Award at the Mortar Board National Conference in Atlanta. The recognition was given to the nation's top three advisors from more than 230 chapters.

The UNK chapter of Mortar Board also received the Golden Torch Award, given to 24 chapters that contribute meaningful scholarship, leadership and service to their institutions. UNK has received the recognition 15 out of the last 16 years.

In addition, UNK won nine Project Excellence awards, given to chapters for notable achievement in scholarship, leadership, fundraising, service and involvement. Projects recognized were: Faculty Appreciation Dinner, Campus Cleanup, Freshman and Sophomore outstanding recognition, Fuel Around the Fountain, Last Lecture Series, Reading is Leading program, True Blue game days and Veterans Day letter writing event. 🐦

Hank Bounds Next University of Nebraska President



Dr. Hank Bounds

Dr. Hank Bounds, commissioner of higher education for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, has been named the next president of the University of Nebraska System.

The NU Board of Regents appointed Bounds Jan. 12. A lifelong educator with a demonstrated record of expanding opportunities for students, improving higher education outcomes and efficiencies and building successful partnerships with policy makers, donors and

business leaders; Bounds is the seventh president of the University of Nebraska.

A first-generation traditional college student who has spent his entire 25-year career in education, he was selected for the NU presidency among four public finalists following an extensive national search.

Bounds will begin his tenure as president on April 13.

Dr. James Linder will continue to serve as interim president until Dr. Bounds arrives and will assist with the leadership transition. Linder has served as interim president since May 2014, when James B. Milliken left following nearly a decade as NU's president to become chancellor of City University of New York.

“Dr. Bounds is a highly respected educator who has focused his career on helping to change lives in a way that education impacted his own opportunities,” said Regent Howard Hawks of Omaha, Chairman of the NU Board of Regents. 🐦