

Issue 3, May 2009

### Upcoming Events

- May 6** Avenue Scholars Celebration Luncheon
- June** Board of Directors Meeting
- June 1** Bright Futures Foundation Office Move . . .
- June 7** New Avenue Scholars Student Center Opens for Summer Programs



*Principal Bernice Nared and Northwest Scholars*

## Bright Futures Foundation Begins a New Year!

June 1, 2009 marks the completion of the start-up year for the Bright Futures Foundation. It has been an exciting and fulfilling year. The most significant accomplishment of the year occurred on May 6<sup>th</sup> at a luncheon held at the Scott Conference Center recognizing the first class of Avenue Scholars. The attendees included the Avenue Scholars, Bright Futures Foundation Board of Directors, Community Advisory Board members, Mayor Mike Fahey, State Senator Tanya Cook, and several educators and community members. This event truly marks the beginning of a remarkable opportunity for the 175 Avenue Scholars and a tremendous amount of work for our talented and committed staff.

The career component of the Bright Futures Foundation program is moving at warp speed. A comprehensive job placement/internship program is coming together, working in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Labor, Omaha Goodwill Industries, Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and the "Dream It Do It" organization. Avenue Scholars will have a wide variety of paid work experiences across the community. Due to the support of these agencies and the hard work of our staff, we are months, if not years, ahead of our timeline to develop such a program.

I am also pleased to announce the addition of two new staff members. Aprille Phillips and Yano Jones will join Bright Futures Foundation as Talent Advisors. These two bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences that will enrich our already strong team.



**Dr. Ken Bird**  
CEO/President



### Announcing the First Class of Avenue Scholars

#### Welcome . . .

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Katherine Alvarado 2011   | Elizabeth Mason-Merritt 2011 |
| Olivia Aviles 2010        | Antonio Mata 2011            |
| Ritalyia Beaugard 2010    | Noel McCreary 2010           |
| Michael Becerra 2011      | Nytalia McCroy 2011          |
| Dylan Belter 2010         | Destiny Meeks 2009           |
| Cody Beltz 2011           | Malcolm Minnifield 2011      |
| Jan Benites 2010          | Maia Molina 2011             |
| Andre Boyd 2010           | Jason Moore 2011             |
| Justina Breazier 2010     | Natalya Moore 2009           |
| Thomas Brown 2010         | Abraham Mora-Becerra 2010    |
| Quentin Burks 2009        | A'Drian Moss 2011            |
| Ashley Burns 2010         | Cierra Moten 2009            |
| Marque Cain 2011          | Shay Murph 2010              |
| Charles Carter 2011       | Thu Nguyen 2011              |
| Tywanna Carter 2010       | Karminn Nolasco 2010         |
| Monica Chambers 2009      | Marisol Novotny 2010         |
| Raven Chambers 2010       | Scott Oien 2011              |
| Jori Charleston 2011      | Fernando Ortiz 2011          |
| Karina Chavez 2011        | Jesse Osterbuhr 2011         |
| Jamie Cherry 2011         | Alexis Pacheco 2010          |
| Dominique Clark 2009      | Linda Pasillas 2010          |
| Rickey Claxton 2011       | Briana Peak 2010             |
| Jackee Coleman 2009       | Keshia Perkins 2010          |
| Candice Collins 2010      | Efrain Pinto 2009            |
| Tanner Copenhaver 2010    | Courtney Post 2011           |
| Elizabeth Cruz 2011       | Miranda Post 2010            |
| Leticia Cruz-Delgado 2010 | Jo Ann Powell 2011           |
| Thomas Curry 2010         | Lavonte' Prince 2010         |
| Antaries Daniels 2010     | Samantha Quitl 2011          |
| Kalynn Danner 2011        | Melvin Ramirez 2011          |
| Jessica Deitering 2010    | Candisa Reese-Johnson 2010   |
| D'Yontay Dial 2011        | Rose Resendiz 2011           |
| Sarael Duncan 2011        |                              |
| Tarrisha Evans 2010       |                              |

**New Avenue Scholars . . . (cont'd)**

Jairett Ferguson 2011	Omar Romero 2010
China Fleming 2011	Shanice Ross 2011
Armond Floyd 2010	Dillon Rucker 2010
Sophiae Foster 2010	ShantaLe'Shai Russell 2010
Maria Franco 2010	Joshua Ryan 2010
Amber Franklin 2009	Rachel Rydberg 2009
Unique Franklin 2010	Carlos Sales 2010
Virginia Frost 2011	Claudia Sales 2010
Gustavo Garcia 2011	Roselia Salinas 2011
Miriam	Sherae' Sawyer 2010
Gayosso-Larios 2010	Angelina Scales 2010
Nicole Gomez 2011	Jasyn Scott 2011
Christina Gonzales 2010	Shawn'ta Settles 2009
Sonia Gonzales	Morgan Sexton 2009
Sanchez 2011	Tiffany Sheppard 2010
Jaynesha Graves 2011	Darin Sherrod 2009
Victoria Grosse 2011	Chris Slack 2010
Anita Gutierrez 2010	Kassandra Smith 2011
Taylor Hagedorn 2010	Travon Smith 2010
Denterris Harbour 2010	Jasmine Snoddy 2011
Brianna Haynes 2011	Tahnee Soukup 2010
Ronnelle Haynes 2010	Mynesha Spencer 2011
Arixa Herrera 2010	Kalvonna Staff 2009
Maria Herrera 2011	De'Chelle Starks 2011
Bryan Hill 2009	Devon Stubbs 2010
Breeanna Hines 2011	Lauren Sutherland 2011
De'Andre Hines 2011	Jillian Thomas 2010
Aminta Hodges 2011	Elizabeth Thompson 2011
Jeanine Holland 2010	Jasmyn Thompson 2009
Jayne Hookstra 2011	Tyler Thompson 2010
Tyrika Houston 2010	Veronica Thompson 2010
Katherine Howard 2011	Darcell Trotter 2010
Johnny Huynh 2011	Eric Tucker 2010
Paige Jackman 2010	Paige Tyree 2010
Alexandria Jennings	Sam Upadhyay 2010
2011	Noe Valle 2011
Shirley Jensen 2010	Tia Vanderpool 2011
Devante Jones 2010	Luis Ventura 2010
Jacinda Jones 2011	Wilson Vili 2011
Emily Karloff 2011	Byron Villalta 2010
Gage Kasat 2011	Victoria Vong 2011
Shanice Kercheval 2010	Brandon Wainwright 2010
Sabrina Knight 2011	Kandyce Walker 2010
Nicole Kounnavong 2011	Bobby Washington 2010
Jeff Krzemein 2011	David Watkins 2010
Meghan Ksiazek 2010	Ladarius Webster 2011
Linh Lam 2010	Shannon Weeks 2011
Chauncey Lambert 2010	Dyamon Wilkinson 2010
Brandi Landon 2009	Lance Williams 2011
James Lessley 2011	Lonnie Williams 2010
Terrell Long 2010	JaQuan Woodfork 2011
Yesenia Lora 2011	Victoria Xiong 2009

**Avenue Scholars Center . . .**

One of the “perks” of being an Avenue Scholar is access to the Avenue Scholars Center. Upon completion in May, the Center, located in Mid America Plaza office park near the new Aksarben Village, will be home base for Bright Future Foundation’s summer, after-school and evening programming. Throughout the academic year, the Avenue Scholars Center will play host to special college-planning programs and workshops. These events will be open to the general public in an effort to reach a greater number of Omaha’s students of talent and need.

The Center is being designed to encourage academic excellence, peer collaboration and social networking. The aesthetic qualities are based on research in both the impact of color and lighting on learners’ moods and engagement. Although the vast majority of the furnishings will focus on the necessity to provide flexibility in space planning for a variety of activities, there will be some fixed pieces and areas which will be as inviting as the “living room of our scholars’ dreams.”

When not teaching in one of our three pilot schools, our Talent Advisors will be working with our scholars at the Center. They will also use the Center to meet with parents, train career mentors, and collaborate with friends from our non-profit partners.

**Cris Fishback**  
Secondary Talent Advisor

**Technology Update . . .**

Collaborate . . . the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines collaborate as “to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor.”

As we have researched and acquired technology resources for the Bright Futures Foundation and Avenue Scholars, collaboration has been a key word. One of the important goals for our Talent Advisors is to use advanced technology tools to communicate and collaborate 24/7 with Avenue Scholars.

Our staff members have been sharpening their technology skills and learning new tools like text, audio, and video chat, as well as delivery sharing venues including blogs, wikis, and podcasts. A secure, server-based area will be available for Avenue Scholars to use email, iChat, and other collaborative technology tools. Talent Advisors are also looking at ways to use incredible new technologies such as the unbelievable interactive whiteboard donated by PolyVision. These tools will allow Talent Advisors to collaborate with the Avenue Scholars in unique ways during summer programs and throughout the academic year.

A mobile learning lab has also been acquired. Avenue Scholars will be able to use laptops in the Center or check them out on a short-term basis. Individual laptops will be provided for the Metro Avenue Scholars. All Avenue Scholars will receive in-depth training on the care and use of this valuable learning resource.

Bright Futures Foundation's staff is excited to fully utilize next generation technologies to enhance collaboration with Avenue Scholars on their road to success. Although technology will never replace the need for human interaction, it will enable our Talent Advisors and other staff to communicate and collaborate frequently with our scholars, enhancing Bright Futures Foundation's real and virtual community.

**Sharlene Karbowski**  
Director of Technology & Information Services

**Bright Futures Foundation  
Board of Directors**

**Walter Scott, Jr.**  
Chairman of the Board  
**Susie Buffett - Vice Chairman**  
**Michael Yanney - Treasurer**  
**Dick Holland - Director**  
**Barb & Wally Weitz - Directors**  
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