

NEWS RELEASE
For immediate release

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Inclusive Communities Launches Two New Leadership Cohorts

OMAHA, Neb. (Aug. 25, 2023) – Inclusive Communities launched its fifth LeadDIVERSITY cohort with a meet and greet on August 24 at the UNO Community Engagement Center. LeadDIVERSITY is a 10-month leadership program, created in partnership with the Omaha Public Power District, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and TriFaith Initiative. The program centers creating organizational opportunities and conversations surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Since its establishment in 2019, LeadDIVERSITY has graduated over 100 advocates across four cohorts. The 24 advocates selected provide an inclusive representation of the diverse community in the Omaha metro, western Iowa, spanning to Central Nebraska.

In addition, Inclusive Communities re-launched Transformational Leadership, a program formerly offered through Bellevue University. Transformational Leadership is a five-session program that incorporates the foundations of diversity, equity, and inclusion into the leadership skills needed for success in the workforce of today and tomorrow.

“Transformational Leadership looks at DEI and leadership through a foundational lens that is more focused on the individual – their growth and development,” said Dominic Green, Inclusive Communities’ Director of Programs and Faculty. “LeadDIVERSITY continues that development by more deeply examining systems and collective impact to create a sense of belonging in the workplace.”

Inclusive Communities is proud to introduce their 2023-2024 LeadDIVERSITY advocates:

Bekka Byrne, Manager, Employee Experience & Belonging, *Baxter Auto*
Brenna Poindexter, Executive Director, *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Nebraska*
Caitlin Finn, Event Manager, *RISE*
Candace Schmidt, Chairwoman, *Ponca Tribe of Nebraska*
Carol Horner, Founder & President, *Synchronicity, Inc.*
Demi Kulper, Social Impact & Communications Coordinator, *Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska*
Elizabeth Ambrose, HR/Payroll Specialist, *Omni Hotels & Resorts*
Elizabeth Troyer-Miller, Director of Community Impact, *Heartland United Way*
Erika Kirby, Professor & A.F. Jacobson Endowed Chair in Communication, *Creighton University*
Jennifer Dang, Outreach & Training Specialist, *Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers*

Katie Fourney, Marketing & Communications Manager, *SHARE Omaha*
Kira Mclean, Assistant Principal, *Westside Community Schools*
Krystal Fox, Administrative Projects Associate, *UNeTech Institute*
Laura Schutte-Lundy, Psychiatric Behavioral Health Therapist & Chair of Diversity & Inclusion, Department of Psychiatry, *Nebraska Medicine*
Leticia Gomez, Revenue Cycle Training & Quality Assurance Associate, *Nebraska Medicine*
M. Nicole Lewis, Employment & Career Readiness Coordinator, *Heartland Workforce Solutions*
Marquita Govan, Inclusion Program Associate, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*
Moises Saucedo, College Experience Coach, *Bellevue University*
Nick O'Brien, Attorney, *Koley Jessen, P.C. L.L.O*
Pati Carr, Sr. Associate, L&D, *Carson Group*
Samantha Jones, Program Manager, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*
Sheritta A. Strong, MD, MBA, DFAPA, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Inclusion, Associate Professor, Psychiatrist, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*
Dr. Tanishia Jacobs, Title 1 Educator, *Bellevue Public Schools*
Terrence M. Coleman, VP Operations & Chief Financial Officer, *Urban League of Nebraska*

For more information about the program or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit www.inclusive-communities.org/leaddiversity.

About Inclusive Communities

Since 1938, Inclusive Communities has served Nebraska, Iowa, and the region by directing our efforts in the areas of youth, community and workplace human relations, and leadership programming to achieve our mission of creating inclusive communities. For more information or to find out how you can help, visit our website at: www.inclusive-communities.org.

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