



THE HUSKER ADVOCATE

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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Message from Juan N. Franco

As we near the end of the spring semester and the academic year, we pause to reflect on the many things accomplished during this past year. Much of what we do is reflected in the work of the students. During the last few weeks, we have had opportunities to recognize students and their many accomplishments.

Celebrations began with Ivy Day. The long-held tradition of honoring members of the two senior honor societies: Mortar Board and the Innocents Society. The planting of the ivy took place near the library on April 4. The following week it was announced that one of our students, Annie Himes, had won the prestigious Truman Scholarship. That same week, we had the Impact Awards which recognizes students, organizations and their advisors who had a significant impact on student life. That weekend we had the Outstanding Student Leadership Awards ceremony in which 21 of the top University students were honored. A key component of the

selection criteria for this award is the development of leadership skills in other students. Annie Himes and Jeremy Payne were selected as the top female and male, respectively, for this

award. On Sunday, April 12, several hundred students were honored during the Honors Convocation which recognizes the students with the highest GPAs on campus. The following week, the Character Council inducted 30 students into Franco's List recognizing them for their excellent character and high integrity.

Other accomplishments this past year included opening of the new Eastside Suites Residence Hall and the Outdoor Adventures building. Renovation of the City Union was completed. A new bank, Union Bank, moved into the City Union, replacing Wells Fargo.

While we celebrate the accomplishments of the year, we are already planning for next year. The New Student Enrollment (NSE) Program dates have been scheduled beginning on June 2, planning has begun for the Big Red Welcome, for the New Student Convocation, and the opening of the East Campus Recreation and Wellness Center, and planning has started for some remodeling of the East Campus Union dining facilities.

I wish all of you a good summer. Get some rest and spend time with family and get ready for another excellent 2015-16 academic year

*-Juan **N.** Franco*



L-R: Jeremy Payne, Vice Chancellor Juan N. Franco, Annie Himes

Featured Student Thien Chau



It sometimes feels crazy to reminisce about my first days at UNL. I remember being on 16th and Vine and having no idea where the Union was, or any of my classes for that matter. My friends quickly taught me to use Oldfather Hall as my north star whenever I was lost on campus. This University of 25,000 students, with its two campuses as the time, seemed like such a beast. As an 18-year-old kid who did not know many people attending UNL, I had no idea what to do with myself for the next four years.

Because of my lack of direction freshman year, I said yes to every opportunity that presented itself. I joined the Sigma Chi Fraternity, started working for the Track and Field team, interned at Nebraskans for Civic Reform for two weeks, rowed on the Club Crew team, joined the philosophy quiz bowl for a week, became a member of Sustain UNL, and countless other activities. I quickly got burnt out.

It wasn't until I met Reed Brodersen with the Environmental Sustainability Committee under ASUN that my path became more clear. Reed helped me direct my passion for sustainability and policy. When I was not appointed to serve on the committee my sophomore year, Reed took me on anyway as a sort of protégé to work on the bike share program proposal. Ever since my first interaction with ASUN, my goals for UNL have continually been refined.

My name is Thien Chau, and I currently have the pleasure and privilege of serving as UNL's Student Regent and President of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN). I am an incoming senior Political Science and Environmental Studies double major with an Economics minor. I am also working on receiving an undergraduate certificate in public policy. I graduated from Omaha Burke High School where I surprisingly was never involved with student government.

My family and I are from Vietnam. We moved to San Jose, California when I was three years old, and then to Omaha, Nebraska when I was fifteen. To be completely honest, I was upset to leave California for Nebraska. After three years in Omaha, I was still unsure about staying in Nebraska and attending UNL. During my senior year at Burke, I made the decision to stay, and it has been the single best decision of my life.

Balancing academics and involvement at UNL for the past three years has been challenging, but extremely rewarding. However, I would not be anywhere close to who I am today without the support and tutelage of the generous people of Nebraska and UNL.

The sustainability community at UNL is so welcoming and passionate. Though everyone comes from diverse backgrounds, studies different things, and are involved in various organizations, a strong commitment to environmental sustainability created a tight-knit group. People like Reed Brodersen, Vivian Nguyen, Neil Tabor and Prabhakar Shrestha built a strong foundation for future students. The folks in this community are always ready and willing to further develop skills and passion in newcomers looking to enact change.

My fraternity, Sigma Chi, provided me countless opportunities to develop leadership skills in myself and in new members. As a sophomore, the fraternity paid for my attendance at our "Horizons Leadership Training Workshop" in Snowbird, Utah. I was also able to serve as one of the recruitment chairs that summer. This last year, I was the new member educator. Though the multiple leadership workshops were helpful, the responsibility of molding a new generation of young men quickly matured me.

ASUN has given to me so much more than I could return. Through student government, I've been able to connect with a vast amount of driven, talented and generous individuals who will be my good friends long past my time at

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Featured Student Thien Chau

UNL. This is a group that truly offers students the opportunity to impact the lives of their peers on campus and in the state of Nebraska. And while we are provided this opportunity, ASUN also introduces students to all the fantastic initiatives on campus and leaders in faculty and administration. Student government at UNL has continued to be a great resource to learn about our great institution.

Looking back on my first year at the University, I realize that success at UNL is really dependent on the people you surround yourself with and the ability to focus on your passions. This institution that once seemed so confusing to navigate has now become a home. I encourage anyone who may be lost or feeling defeated to not give up. When you stop to really think about your priorities, you can focus your energy and be involved where it really matters. You never know when you'll open the door that leads to opportunities you never thought you would have. And always remember that at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, no matter how challenging things may be, there'll be generous people ready to show you why there really is no place like Nebraska.

2014-2015 Outstanding Student Leadership Award Finalists



Standing: Alia Noetzel, Vice Chancellor
Juan N. Franco, Annie Himes, Madelyn Petersen

Seated: Jonathan Berger, Jeremy Payne, Kevin Real

Annie Himes and Jeremy Payne were selected as the 2014-2015 Outstanding Student Leadership Award Recipients. We congratulate all of our Outstanding Student Leaders!

Featured Department . . . Student Support Services

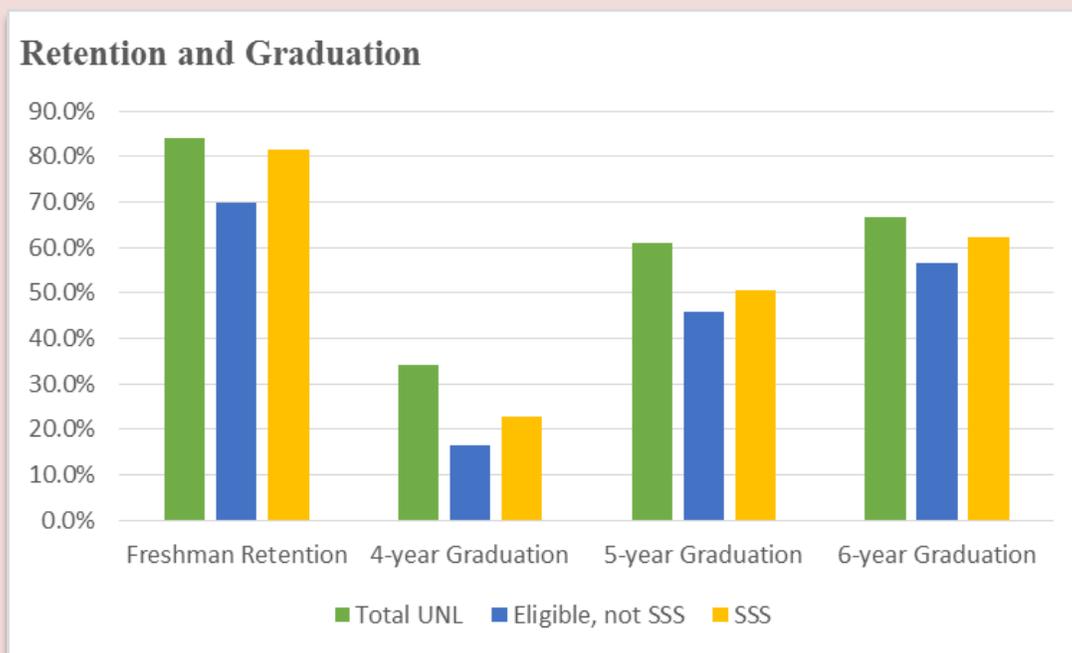
Student Support Services (SSS) is one of six TRIO grant programs under the U.S. Department of Education. Authorized in 1968 by the Higher Education Act Amendments, SSS serves U.S citizens or permanent residents who may lack access to a full post-secondary experience. In order to be eligible for SSS, applicants must qualify on two levels:

- 1) Show Academic Need (UNL: Maximum ACT score of 24 or maximum UNL GPA of 2.9).
Approximately 35% of first-time freshmen meet the ACT standard for eligibility.
AND
- 2) Meet at least one of the following demographic standards:
 - a) Low Income (150% of government poverty levels, based on Taxable Income),
 - b) First Generation (Neither parent has a bachelor's degree), or
 - c) Disabled (Registered with UNL's Services for Students with Disabilities office).

Approximately 19% of UNL students meet both criteria, making them eligible for SSS.

For over 25 years UNL has been successful in retaining a Student Support Services grant. The current grant at UNL is funded to serve 350 undergraduates per year. It has demonstrated its ability to assist in meeting institutional academic, retention, and graduation goals. The following table/chart reflects comparisons of three groups from 2008-09 through 2013-14: 1) all UNL students; 2) UNL students eligible for SSS but not participating; and 3) SSS participants.

	Total UNL	Eligible, not SSS	SSS
Freshman Retention	83.9%	70.0%	81.6%
4-year Graduation	34.1%	16.4%	22.7%
5-year Graduation	61.1%	46.0%	50.5%
6-year Graduation	66.8%	56.7%	62.4%



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Featured Department . . . Student Support Services

Federal guidelines require specific services that all SSS projects must provide; however, UNL's SSS Project offers additional services to increase the likelihood of retention:

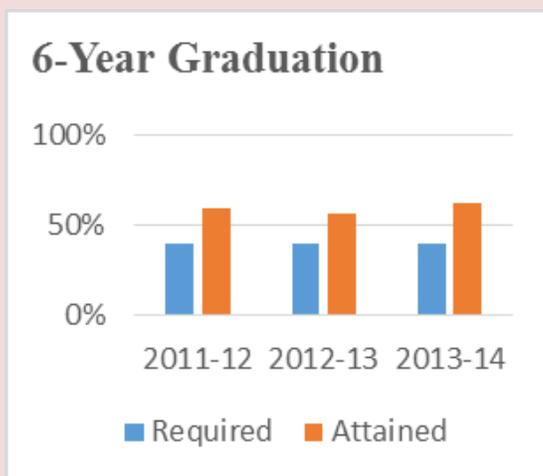
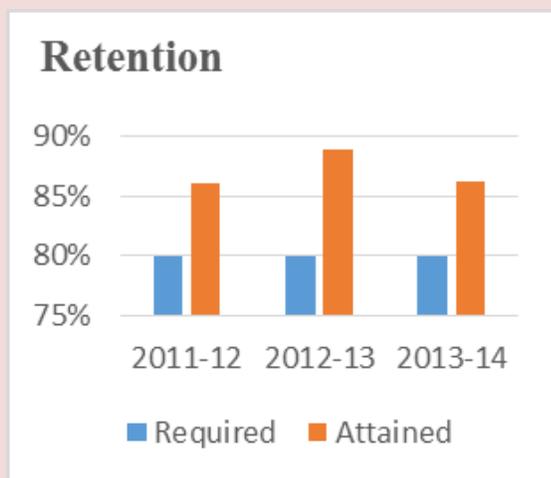
Mandatory Services	Additional UNL SSS Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tutoring—UNL SSS includes a Math Lab as part of this service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grant Aid for 1st and 2nd year participants who are Pell-eligible and show unmet need
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Academic advising/Course selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Courses<ul style="list-style-type: none">MATH 100AMATH 101ENGL 150 (Fall and Summer)ENGL 151 (Spring)BIOS 101 (Fall)LIFE 120 (Spring)ALEC 102EDPS 150
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Academic coaching/Monitoring for academic at-risk participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proofreading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial Aid assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Laptop and graphing calculator checkout
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Career and CAPS representative in SSS office for an hour each week
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">100 free Uniprint pages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial assistance for campus life events, service breaks, leadership and cultural conferences, study abroad, graduate school visits, graduate school testing, and CAPS fees
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hot beverages in tutoring lab area

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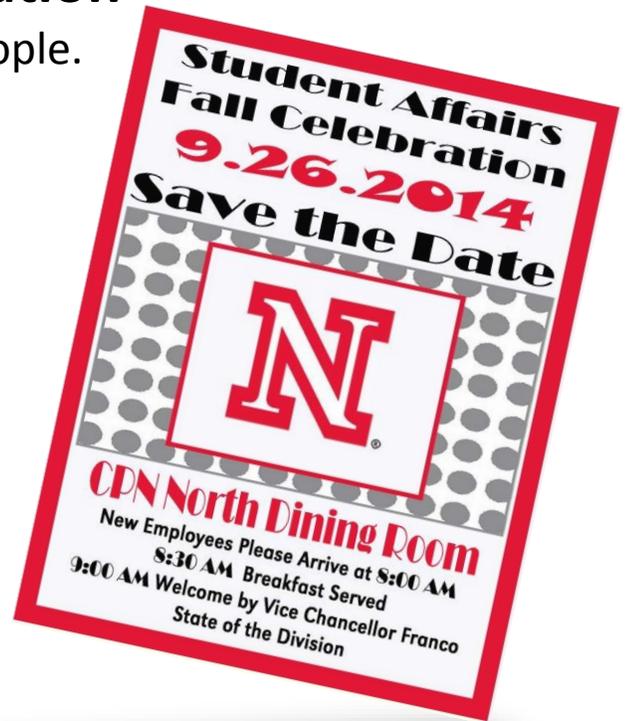
In addition to the SSS legislative requirements, every SSS Project must meet three specific objectives as outlined in the grant proposal. The following tables/charts outlines UNL's SSS Project success in exceeding these objectives over the last three years.

	Retention	2.0 Minimum GPA	6-year Graduation
2011-12	85.99%	89.64%	59.13%
2012-13	88.89%	82.34%	56.56%
2013-14	86.14%	81.79%	62.40%



Student Affairs Staff Fall Celebration

Good food, good information and good people.



Find calendar information at:

UNL Calendar:
<http://events.unl.edu>

Student Affairs Calendar:
<http://stuafs.unl.edu>

Student Involvement:
<http://involved.unl.edu>