



Magazine Feature Story

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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New Program for Pre-Law Students at UNL

University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Law is launching a new Public Interest Scholars Program for prospective students applying for Nebraska Law in 2023.

The Public Interest Scholars Program is a broader scholarship opportunity that offers support for incoming law students including financial aid, mentoring, potential career opportunities and so much more. This program is open now and encourages students to apply as soon as possible, because the reviewing process will start Nov. 15 and it is anticipated that only about five applicants will be chosen.



In 2018-2019, Robert Moberly, dean of law, drafted the college's strategic plan with the goal in mind of trying to make UNL College of Law the best place in the country for students interested in public service. Director of Public Interest Programs Kala Mueller states they "spent a full academic year engaged in a strategic planning process for the next five years." She also talks about the college's current mission: to develop inclusive leaders who advance justice, solve problems and serve with integrity. The Public Interest Scholars Program really focuses on the advancing justice piece of the mission.

To get more specific about the benefit details included in the scholarship, those chosen are guaranteed half-tuition and will have access to resources and opportunities throughout the year that are exclusive to them. The scholars will attend a welcome dinner a week before school starts and will attend a meeting with the Director of Public Interest Programs. Said meeting will cover individualized guidance prior to starting law school paired with continued advising throughout the year. "The whole goal is to make these potential leaders feel supported in choosing this path," says Mueller.

Scholars will also get an alumni mentor; this is distributed by the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Event Planning. Katie Pfannenstiel matches alumni mentors, volunteers for the



most part, with the scholars based on two main factors: practicing interests and geographic location. The alumni mentor program is wonderful because it bridges the gap between theory and the practice of law. Students substantially benefit from these connections and the alumni of this college are greatly valued.

Along with the new program emerging, it is a great time to mention the Probono Research Assistants Program! Students in the UNL College of Law who are a part of this program do research to support attorneys in the community that are doing probono work. Probono legal work is very helpful to these lawyers that are taking on cases voluntarily to help those in need. Director of Public Interest Programs Kala Mueller is in charge of both of these programs as well as a blog on the website for students and alumni, but she states that her main role “is to develop careers, counsel students, help them build connections, and increase awareness for opportunities.”

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Authors Note:

I took all the feedback that I got into consideration. I added a conclusion, two more quotes, and double checked to make sure my why was included. I also started the first sentence off with “University of Nebraska-Lincoln” instead of “NU”. I changed November 15th to Nov. 15, but I kept dean of law uncapitalized, because it doesn’t precede the name. I also changed a whole program and reworded everything to make more sense and sound better. I really struggled to stretch my information into 650 words, but quality over quantity right.