

THE STUDENT SERVICE &  
LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# SCOTT REPORT

2019—2020



UNIVERSITY OF  
Nebraska  
Omaha



# THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Academic year 2019-20 was a unique year in many ways for The Student Service and Leadership Collaborative (The Collaborative). The Collaborative began the academic year reinvigorated after a limited administrative review that set up the launch of several program enhancements, including a new ePortfolio template and self-paced learning modules, an expanded menu of conference experiences, a redesigned program learning agenda focused on intercultural competency and leadership development, and a new model for capstone projects. Throughout this report are highlights from those different projects and reflections from students and non-profit partners on significant take-aways from the partnerships and experiences associated with The Collaborative. While several experiences were cut short as our nonprofits also navigated the unprecedented pandemic and we switched to a virtual experience, there are a number of achievements to be celebrated.

In the 2020-21 academic year, The Collaborative joined with our new Office of Student Life. While still being housed within the Weitz Community Engagement Center, The Collaborative became part of a new office that supports student involvement, fraternity and sorority life, and gender and sexuality resources to further enhance our students' experiences with these high impact program areas. There are also conversations occurring with local partners for opportunities to build out The Collaborative's footprint as a positive force for student development and social entrepreneurship.

## **About The Student Service and Leadership Collaborative**

The Student Service and Leadership Collaborative provides UNO students with opportunities to engage the university with the greater Omaha metropolitan community through action projects that lead to positive social change. The program has been recognized nationally, including receiving the Silver Award for Civic Learning, Democratic Engagement, Service-Learning, Community Service, and related category from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Excellence Awards in 2018.

# THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# STUDENT PROFILES

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## ARTS & HUMANITIES

### **Erica Carlson, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://ericareneepportfolio.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Arts & Humanities

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2025

**Major:** Elementary Education and Early Childhood

**Nonprofit:** Benson Citylights Project

**Project:** Worked on marketing and managing the organization's social media; Created a marketing video about its mission

**Collaborative Takeaway:** I learned that when I throw myself outside my comfort zone, I can do more than I ever thought. I underestimated myself, and now I know I'm capable of all the challenges ahead of me in my career. I also have met some of the coolest and most compassionate people along the way. I could go on forever about how The Collaborative has taught me so much.

### **Jean Joy Kamau, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <http://jeankamau.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Arts & Humanities

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2023

**Major:** Emergency Management and Gerontology

**Nonprofit:** Omaha Performing Arts

**Project:** Provided logistic support and ran the 1200 Club, an intimate venue at the Holland Center.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** I learned that giving back to the community in whatever way is what matters, no matter how small the action is. I would say my year at The Collaborative and at OPA was fun, but also a great growth and learning experience.

### **Andre' Sessions Jr., Service Supervisor**

**ePortfolio:** <https://andresessions.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Arts & Humanities

**Expected Graduation Date:** Fall 2021

**Major:** Black Studies and Journalism

**Nonprofit:** Union for Contemporary Arts

**Project:** Assisted with the documentation (photography and social media posts) of events held within the space; Collaborated on writing journal articles, press releases and monthly newsletters; Helped with the promotion of the services available within the space located on N. 24th and Lake.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** This experience, combined with the work of The Collaborative, exhumed integrity and exemplified what collaboration really is. I've gotten the chance to speak with many business owners and create relationships with others who have openly spoken about what needs to be done in order to actually impact the community. The work done by The Collaborative ACTUALLY impacts the community more than we may think and a program like such should be implemented in academia so students can develop as working professionals but also be great service leaders for the world.

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## ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY

### **Marissa Morales, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://marissavallesillo.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Economic Sufficiency

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2023

**Major:** Political Science, Chicano(a)/Latino(a) Studies and Nonprofit Management

**Minor:** Government Affairs and Civic Engagement

**Nonprofit:** Family Housing Authority Services

**Project:** Worked on launching the organization's new website and enhancing its social media platforms; Also helped create a survey that would be used to collect the success rates of its workshops.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** The Collaborative has been a great experience that has given me the opportunity to understand what kind of work I can see myself doing after graduation. I am more confident in my strengths and willing to continue to learn outside of the classroom.



## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

### **Maather Al Baddai, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://maathermohammed9.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Educational Support

**Expected Graduation Date:** Fall 2020

**Major:** Business and Emergency Management

**Minor:** Emergency Management

**Nonprofit:** Diamond Generation

**Project:** Established a system to track information, resources and services rendered for young people recently released from the juvenile detention centers between the ages 18-24.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** Working with The Collaborative this year has given me an enormous background about the volunteer work in the university and how to build a solid community by volunteering and helping society.

### **Mazin Al Rahbi, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://mazinalrahbi.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Educational Support

**Expected Graduation Date:** Fall 2020

**Major:** Business Administration

**Minor:** Management

**Nonprofit:** Munroe-Meyer Institute

**Project:** Worked to identify and create activities for students with disabilities at UNO; Conducted surveys and analyzed the data that was gathered through the surveys.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** I was able to enhance my leadership and teamwork skills. I learned how to apply my strengths in my interactions with all people. I was able to identify my weaknesses to strengthen them and implement social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

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## **Taylor Peak, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://taylorpeak.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Educational Support

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2023

**Major:** Black Studies and Journalism

**Minor:** Public Relations and Advertising

**Nonprofit:** Omaha Street School

**Project:** Continue building curriculum and event planning of the Omaha Street School's GAP-U Program.

## **Danyell Price, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://danyellprice.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Educational Support

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2024

**Major:** Business Administration and Spanish

**Nonprofit:** Civic Nebraska

**Project:** Observed and informed how the after-school programs at Lewis and Clark Middle School, Lathrop and Sherman Elementary could be improved while also building strategies to engage student in different activities by observing staff.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** Collaborative experience this year allowed me to take time to observe how to improve myself and understand my purpose.

## **Eric Ramos, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://ericramosonline.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Educational Support

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2020

**Major:** Spanish

**Nonprofit:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands

**Project:** Worked on translations and communications to enhance the involvement of the populations of Hispanic descent.

## **Kolten Schnack, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <http://koltenschnackocsr.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Educational Support

**Expected Graduation Date:** Fall 2020

**Major:** Elementary Education, SPED

**Concentration:** American Sign Language

**Nonprofit:** Campus Compact for the Great Plains

**Project:** Managed and sustained communications and events for Campus Compact and its partners.

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## **Madeline Swanson, Service Supervisor**

**ePortfolio:** <https://miswanson.wixsite.com/mad-swan>

**Service Area:** Educational Support

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2021

**Major:** English and Philosophy

**Nonprofit:** WhyArts

**Project:** Worked with WhyArts on a project where they taught after-school staff how to modify and teach arts programming.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** From The Collaborative, I have taken away how important community and teamwork is to my personal success.



## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

### **Megan Hanna, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <http://meganhanna.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Health and Wellness

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2020

**Major:** Elementary Education/Family and Community

**Nonprofit:** Omaha Children's Museum

**Project:** Created a tool to measure the exhibits in the museum. The goal of this tool is to analyze and determine whether or not they are meeting the established goals that are set out for each exhibit.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** Working with The Collaborative has been an incredible experience. The biggest takeaway would be finding who I am as a leader. Before I started this experience, I was not confident in my leadership skills. I really feel this job allowed for me to find my strengths and to use them in many different ways.

### **Nico Lindell, Service Supervisor**

**Service Area:** Health and Wellness

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2023

**Major:** International Studies

**Nonprofit:** Women's Center of Advancement

**Project:** Developed a novel method of marketing and education through graphic design and social media advertisement.

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## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

### **Fatma Al Wahaibi, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <http://falwahaibi.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** International Service

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2024

**Major:** Geography and Geology

**Nonprofit:** Reading Drive for Africa

**Project:** Worked on creating a marketing video about the organization's story highlighting its goals and needs; Updated the organization website by adding more information and pictures.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** The Collaborative gives me a chance to meet new people, and to develop my leadership skills as well as my teamwork skills.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### **Asha Francisco, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://ashafrancisco.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Social Justice

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2023

**Major:** Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Nonprofit:** Black Police Officers Association

**Project:** Organized the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Omaha Teen Summit.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** The largest takeaway I've learned from being in The Collaborative this year is to keep pushing when things get tough.

### **Elizabeth Haag, Program Manager**

**Service Area:** Social Justice

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2023

**Major:** Human Rights and International Studies

**Minor:** Global Strategic Studies

**Nonprofit:** TriFaith Ministries

**Project:** Assisted with the efforts in development and fundraising for Tri-Faith's new worship center. Worked on networking and outreach methods to advertise Tri-Faith's services and mission.

### **Fatuma Hassan, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://fatumahassan.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Social Justice

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2020

**Major:** Nonprofit Management and Public Health

**Nonprofit:** LEAP Program

**Project:** Worked with former foster youth pursuing post-secondary educational goals and provided support to the staff.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** My experience with The Collaborative was very fulfilling. It gave me an opportunity to give back to an organization that has helped me. Additionally, The Collaborative provided various leadership opportunities for me which are crucial as a developing professional.

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## **Nathan Johnson, Service Supervisor**

**ePortfolio:** <https://nathanowenjohnson.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Social Justice

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2020

**Major:** Communication Studies and Political Science

**Minor:** Government Affairs and Civic Engagement

**Nonprofit:** Latino Center of the Midlands

**Project:** Cleaned a program database; Visualized client intake data; Developed and began the implementation of a voter registration and Census promotion initiative.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** The biggest takeaway from this past year was managing professional relationships to get things accomplished.

## **Kevin Kabore, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://kaboreportfolio.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Social Justice

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2025

**Major:** Art

**Minor:** Graphic Design

**Nonprofit:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands

**Project:** Brainstorm and develop ideas to enhance the organization's outreach and engagement through videography.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** I enjoyed learning more about myself and communicating with others and working as a team. I am grateful to be a part of the best internship on campus.

## **Torie Walenz, Program Manager**

**ePortfolio:** <https://toriewalenz.weebly.com>

**Service Area:** Social Justice

**Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2024

**Major:** Secondary Education/Youth and Training

**Minor:** LGBTQ Studies

**Nonprofit:** Omaha Girls Rock (OGR)

**Project:** Designed a digital handbook for OGR that reflected its accessibility services and commitment to social justice.

**Collaborative Takeaway:** The Collaborative has taught me to be kinder to myself and equipped me with tactics to not only succeed in my classes and future career, but to care for my mind and body.

# THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# EPORTFOLIOS

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ePortfolios have always lived as a signature development experience for students within The Collaborative. In summer 2019, a small group of Collaborative students undertook a project to redesign our ePortfolio template and resources for students within The Collaborative. Through this work, the students created a series of self-paced learning experiences for students from The Collaborative to participate in and grow in response to the Division of Student Success's eight co-curricular learning outcomes. These self-paced experiences complemented the more in-depth professional development agenda connected to The Collaborative's monthly meetings.

## **Co-curricular Learning Outcomes**

- Communication Skills
- Civic and Social Responsibility
- Creative and Critical Thinking
- Intercultural Competency
- Interpersonal Skills
- Leadership
- Self-Awareness
- Sustainability

This work was especially fortuitous when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Our students were able to continue logging hours and focusing on self-reflection and personal growth as our nonprofits and community shut down in response to the pandemic. The student-designed ePortfolio template was also able to be shared with several student employment groups across campus, including Campus Recreation. Through a little coaching and collaboration from The Collaborative, several student employees across campus were able to benefit from the template by building ePortfolios themselves and maintaining their employment at a time when many units were cutting student hours and positions.

# THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES

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For academic year 2019-20, special emphasis was placed on expanding conference opportunities to as many Collaborative student interns as possible. This section highlights this year's selected conferences, including testimonials from student interns on their significant take-aways as a result of the experience. Conferences were selected based on the areas of interest the student interns highlighted as desires in developing as well as their connection to the co-curricular learning outcomes. Student interns applied to attend these conferences through an internal process that took into account performance, connection to capstone projects, and student interest. Throughout each experience, students participated in daily reflection activities as a group. More detailed and personal accounts of the learning that took place as a result of these unique conference experiences can be found in each student's individual ePortfolio.

## **IMPACT Conference**



The IMPACT Conference is historically the largest annual conference focused on the civic engagement of college students in community service, service-learning, community-based research, advocacy and other forms of social action. IMPACT is the one time during the year when students, administrators, faculty, AmeriCorps members and VISTAs, and nonprofit professionals gather together to learn and share effective practices, improve personal skills and organizational strategies, discover opportunities and resources, exchange stories, be inspired and challenged to sustain their efforts. Six students attended the conference this year hosted at Arizona State University.

## THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES

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### Student Reflections on IMPACT

*"Attending IMPACT was inspiring; I got to see young people like myself celebrating their accomplishments, sharing their knowledge, and exploring their passions. Often, I feel overwhelmed or useless in the face of the world's injustices, but IMPACT has shown me the only remedy is through community and action. After meeting with a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) tabling at the conference, I decided to apply in Omaha. As of now, I have been accepted and begin my training this week." - Mad Swanson*

*"Through IMPACT, I was able to spontaneously reconnect with peers from a service organization I was involved with in high school, as well as meet partners who work with my nonprofit. I felt fulfilled from these interactions, which developed personal connections and allowed us to share stories and ideas for our future work.*

*This experience has given me ideas to apply to the student organization that I am the president of (Allies for Sign Language) in order to increase community involvement and build better community partnerships. IMPACT also has equipped me with knowledge of resources or opportunities that I can pass on to other students, especially those who will be starting to take on new positions within the organizations I am involved in on campus." - Kolten Schnack*

*"My IMPACT experience left me feeling rejuvenated and inspired. To be able to hear people's testimonies and stories of leadership, as well as meet people from all over the country and world is something I will never forget. I learned so much about others and how I can apply their leadership skills into my own. I feel as though my experience with IMPACT will help me as I continue my journey as a UNO student because I have become more aware of what I can do to lead on my own campus. As I had mentioned, I had the privilege to meet and learn from all different people who had different experiences than me. Being able to learn what people do on their own campuses to be activists is something I want to be able to apply to my own life as a student at UNO."*

**- Megan Hanna**

*"My personality is more of an introvert but being at The Collaborative has been one of the ways I've pushed myself out of my comfort zone in order to experience more and grow. Our tie at the conference in Arizona was a reminder for me not to let my fear of being good feed my ego. It was a good reminder as to why I chose to get out of my comfort zone and try and make some sort of a difference in everything I do. During my remaining time at UNO, I will be in a better position to answer some difficult questions that my friends, peers or anyone in general may have. I am grateful for the opportunity each of you gave us to visit the city (I had not been to this state before), attend the conference and enjoy everything that came with it." - Jean Joy Kamau*

*"I left IMPACT with a better understanding and clarity of social issues and my stance on them. I was able to make new and refreshing connections with those, in and outside of The Collaborative. This conference gave me a fresh perspective to take back to Nebraska. Attending this conference really gave me the opportunity to take a step back and really reflect on where I'm going on this journey and why. Since I have been back, all the wonderful things I have learned has stayed with me and have been applied in my papers, eportfolio, and my role on campus as a leader." - Erica Carlson*

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## CIRCLE OF CHANGE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Five students attended The Circle of Change Leadership Conference in Los Angeles, CA. Students were selected who preferred a leadership development experience that could support the added responsibilities associated with serving or aspiring to serve as a Service Supervisor. The Circle of Change Leadership Conference (COCLC) aims to help diverse groups of students and professionals from all across the country discover the leader from within, develop the leadership and professional skills necessary to attain career leadership success, and the inspiration and confidence needed to make a positive impact in their community, nation, and world. Bringing together students from across the country, this conference features keynote sessions and workshops facilitated by professionals from top tier companies and organizations from across the world as well as connects students with career development experts for individualized coaching.

### Student Reflections on Circle of Change

*"The COCLC experience has helped me get out of my own head. There are times where I doubt my own ability, and I get scared that I am wasting my time wanting to do something that my family has never done before. I want to keep sticking to the goals I have and not give up when things get hard. Returning back to UNO, I feel like I have more determination like what the speakers had. Everyone was so motivated to be there and see what they could get or teach others. I want to take that same energy and carry it with me throughout the last few years at UNO. I want to leave my legacy at UNO and ensure that I am able to leave and find the career that I once envisioned when I first enrolled." - Marissa Morales*

*"The Circle of Change Leadership Conference was truly life changing for me! I met lifelong friends and even gained a new mentor. Each person there was incredible. I had never been to a conference that was so loud and vibrant and catered to the young people that attended. There was music and dancing, and it was an overall fun time!*

*Day three made me cry! There was a powerful talk by a great speaker who coached us to break through any barrier that was holding us back in the advancement of our academics, careers, and lives. Not only did we talk through those barriers and how we plan to find the light at the end of the tunnel, but we also wrote our barriers on a very thick piece of wood and literally broke through them! I was so scared that I would break my hand, but all went well, and I felt something change inside of me! I plan to use all that I have learned from this conference in my academic journey and my personal journey. I do believe that I was given this opportunity to be a stronger student leader and bring change to my friends and to my campus community." - Asha Francisco*

# THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES

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## BIG XII CONFERENCE



The Big XII Conference on Black Student Government creates an opportunity to bring together over 600 Black student leaders annually to address the issues facing Black students on college campuses. The conference features keynote speakers, leadership workshops, and a career fair among other experiences focused on networking, skill development, and reflection. Workshops focus on issues relevant to the Black community while striving to aid students with strategies to improve their campuses and communities as they work towards their college degrees. This year, three students were selected to participate based on their desire to grow as Black student leaders at a predominantly white institution with a focus on community impact through activation and recruitment of their peers as partners.

### Student Reflections on the Big XII Conference

*"From this conference I have developed a higher insight of what being a leader consists of. This conference has made me realize that self-branding, creating other forms of income and just always putting yourself out there and network so people can notice you. Feeling a sense of empowerment also has influenced me from this conference by seeing and hearing speeches from powerful women that are very successful in their careers and hearing how the path to their success stories was not easy but they pushed through. I will be successful just like those strong women because I'm learning from their stories and recognize that I will have to work twice as hard to become successful, but I'm ready to do that." - Danyell Price*

*"I felt an overall enlightenment that I am not alone. That they are people going through the same things that I am, that understand where I'm coming from and have similar goals. It was an overall positive and supportive group; everyone brought each other up and raised my self-worth and esteem. That's something no one can take away from me. This experience has not only made me a better student, but potentially made me want to be a student longer than I originally planned.*

*Words cannot express my gratitude, but this has been one of the most impactful events I have ever experienced." - Kevin Kabore*

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES

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## **COVID-19 Impacts**

Several spring experiences were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic related to professional development and conference experiences. Our University Innovation Fellows (UIF) (Nate Johnson and Elizabeth Haag) were selected to attend the in-person conference at Stanford University typically held in April. That experience attempted to flex to fall 2020 but ultimately was moved to a virtual experience. For the Clinton Global Initiative-University, Andre Sessions Jr. was selected to participate in the conference in Scotland also in April. That experience was ultimately cancelled and also became a virtual series of workshops to support students with work on their commitment projects.

## THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

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Alumni of The Collaborative student employment experience often launch into paid industry-specific internships and practicum experiences while they work towards graduation. Post-graduation students who have participated in The Collaborative enter into graduate study or begin working in their respective professional fields. Our students are competitive for graduate assistantships and the staff does a great deal to support students, serving as references and providing coaching on materials in preparation of applying to different experiences. Two recent alumni are profiled following their time in The Collaborative.

### **Kelsey Wagner**

- **Bachelor's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology Minor in Gerontology '19**
- **Currently pursuing a Master's in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha**

*"I hope to apply my master's degree in a pediatric neurogenerative setting and then eventually open a non-profit organization that addresses the needs of this specific population. While I navigate this program, I am also a Graduate Assistant at the Service Learning Academy here on campus where I help courses connect classroom instruction through community partnerships. I spent three years in the Office of Civic and Social Responsibility (OCSR) where I worked my way through being a Program Manager and Service Supervisor. My time at OCSR helped me find a deeper appreciation for connecting others to their meaning behind service. With that, being a Service Supervisor pushed me to support individuals and their personal and professional goals as they found their own niche for leadership. I wouldn't have this passion for service and my community if it wasn't for OCSR!"*

### **Anson Dsouza**

- **Masters in Management Information Systems '17**
- **Currently working as a Network Administrator for the Archdiocese of Omaha, primarily serving the six schools which are part of the Omaha Catholic School Consortium: Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette, Sts. Peter and Paul, Holy Cross, St. Thomas More and Dual Language Academy.**
- **Post-graduation worked for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska for three years providing IT support to its company Osni Ponca LLC and all its subsidiaries, continues to assist them on a part-time basis managing their websites and providing IT support.**

*"Having come to UNO as an International Student from India, I found The Collaborative to be a one-of-a-kind workplace, which helped me get involved with the local community and understand the needs of its people, while helping me grow in my professional career and skills.*

# THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

## ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS CONT.

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### **Anson Dsouza cont.**

*I had the privilege and the opportunity to start working with The Collaborative as a Program Manager and was assigned to the nonprofit WhyArts Inc, where I helped administer its website and technology. With WhyArts, I worked as a Teaching/Workshop Assistant at VODEC and NorthStar Foundation, assisting with arts programming for kids, at-risk youth, teens, and adults with special needs, as well as project management tasks and volunteer recruitment.*

*I eventually transitioned to the Service Supervisor position for Educational Support at The Collaborative, which helped me develop my leadership skills as I mentored the Program Managers in my team. I also helped coordinate and engage a diverse group of volunteers and encouraged them to give back to our community, which helped me understand different cultures and enabled me to relate to my coworkers and customers when I entered the working world.*

*This experience at The Collaborative helped shape my career goals and gave me the platform to be successful after graduation. After graduation, I accepted two part-time positions, one at my Collaborative nonprofit Why Arts and the other the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, to whom I was introduced to through the work and relationships I made while being at The Collaborative.*

## THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# NONPROFIT PARTNER REFLECTIONS

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*“There is no better approach to addressing complex issues facing those with disabilities than developing strategic partnerships. That is precisely what we are doing with the interns and The Student Service and Leadership Collaborative. Mazin Al Rahbi, our intern this year, was exceptional. While Mazin completed very important data entry and infographics that benefited our organization, his efforts coordinating peer mentor training and serving as a peer mentor to our Trailblazer students created more of an impact than we ever could have imagined. His talent, compassion, and dedication truly deepened our ties on campus and within the disability community. His efforts will be felt by our students and future peer mentors for years to come. We are blessed to partner with The Collaborative!”*

**Rachel Ray**

**Think College Initiative Coordinator  
Munroe-Meyer Institute**

*“We were satisfied with Marissa’s great insights on our Homeownership program survey. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and eliminate poverty by helping people achieve housing stability and financial security, it takes great staff and interns like Marissa to fulfill the Family Housing Advisory Services mission. We are changing one household at a time because we have interns and volunteers contribute to that. As her immediate supervisor, I enjoyed learning and sharing knowledge with Marissa; I strongly believe that she learned and gained skills that would help her become a great asset to any organization in her future career.”*

**Gilbertine Nyonzima**

**HR/Executive Administrator  
Family Housing Services, Inc.**

*“The Latino Center of the Midlands is proud and grateful to be in partnership with The Collaborative. We value their work in the community, as well as the difference they make within our nonprofit. Nate, our intern, has grown to be part of our Latino Center family and has provided us with unique knowledge, skills, and insight. He came here as an intern and left as a great team member and friend. We will undoubtedly miss Nate but know that The Collaborative is continuing to grow capacity within our community by mentoring young professionals. We can’t wait to get our next young leader on board! Thank you!”*

**Viridiana Almanza**

**Director of Family and Community Well-Being  
Latino Center of the Midlands**

## THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# NON-PROFIT PARTNER REFLECTIONS

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*“As a partner organization at The Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, it is an honor to be able to collaborate with UNO programs such as the Office of Civic and Social Responsibility’s The Collaborative. This is our second year working with an intern from The Collaborative. We have been blown away each year at the insight, commitment and thoughtfulness these student interns have brought to completing their tasks for our organization. Omaha Girls Rock has developed greater capacity in communications and established accessibility efforts thanks to our partnership with The Collaborative. We’re looking forward to future collaborations.”*

**Melissa Wurth**  
**Executing Director**  
**Omaha Girls Rock**

*“This year, our relationship with the Office of Civic and Social Responsibility has grown exponentially under the leadership of Jeffery Southall. One of Inclusive Communities top values is collaboration and we place our partnership with Jeffery at the top of the list of folks with whom we work. Jeffery really understands prioritizing expectations and the communication needed to deliver on The Collaborative’s goals. Our intern, Johnny, has been instrumental in providing our graphics for our social media. Their dedication to our mission and the exceptional inclusive and accessible design work that truly embraces our vision of a society that is strengthened by diversity, inclusion, respect and justice for all people. Thank you for your support of such a worthy partnership.”*

**Cammy Watkins**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Inclusive Communities**

*“Having the opportunity to work directly with a student in The Collaborative program this year was a great gift to The Union. Before we partnered with The Collaborative, we frequently weighed the possibility of hiring an intern for a wide diversity of tasks we were unable to easily accomplish within our core staff. We were always limited from making this step for budget reasons, wanting to offer only a fair wage to any intern contributing to our work. Thanks to The Collaborative we were able to offer a broad range of skills and development opportunities with the confidence that our intern was being fairly compensated for his time and talent. We’ve been so happy being a part of the program and thankful for the fresh insight, skills, and enthusiasm our intern brought to their work. We love that this opportunity exists in Omaha, building direct connections between community organizations like ours and talented and thoughtful leaders of tomorrow.”*

**Patrick Mainelli**  
**Communications Director**  
**The Union for Contemporary Art**

THE STUDENT SERVICE & LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

# NON-PROFIT PARTNER REFLECTIONS

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*“WhyArts is grateful for our partnership with the UNO Collaborative and the value of having a UNO student intern. Mad Swanson has been a valuable asset to our team. WhyArts is a small organization and one that has undergone a transition of leadership while Mad has been with us. Mad has been able to handle many administrative duties to keep us moving forward during this time. However, the greatest gift Mad has given us is their insight and compassion. We include Mad in most of our major initiatives because they offer a unique and honest perspective that we want to make sure we are representing. Mad is a treasure to us.”*

**Kim Jubenville**  
**Executive Director**  
**WhyArts Inc.**