



Inspiring Possibilities

Help us give new opportunities to Lincoln students.

Beyond the Classroom: New Citywide Mariachi Ensemble Looks to Community

A NEW MARIACHI ENSEMBLE GIVES LINCOLN STUDENTS MORE CHOICES FOR LEARNING



Lincoln Public Schools is proud to announce a citywide mariachi ensemble that kicked off last month, with the support of the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools. Los Mariachis de la Ciudad Estrella (The Mariachis of the Star City), give all Lincoln students in grades 8-12 a chance to learn and perform mariachi music. The ensemble will be centrally headquartered at Lincoln High School and there will be no audition process.

“This has been a goal of our music department to expand the music opportunities for students in LPS,” said Lance Nielsen, supervisor of music at Lincoln Public Schools. “Mariachi is one of the wonderful musical traditions of Mexico. This serves not only our music students who are interested in becoming more culturally relevant through music, but it also benefits and supports our growing Hispanic community in Lincoln. Mariachi has a strong presence in Hispanic culture and is a strong sense of pride for families.”

Making the experience open to all is a priority to help students explore, learn and perform authentic mariachi music. “Los Mariachis offers meaningful choices for Lincoln students to increase student and parent engagement in schools,” said Brett Noser, director of the ensemble. “The Mariachis of the Star City ensemble not only supports a responsible approach in providing music of diverse cultures, it also provides an avenue for music making in our growing Hispanic community. After attending two mariachi workshops, I am very excited that we are able to start Los Mariachis de la Ciudad Estrella. The goal is to foster academic success and to have all students connect and appreciate this beautiful music genre.”

“We are thrilled to partner with LPS on this project,” said Gary Reber, development officer for the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools. “This is a great way to increase student and parent engagement and offer meaningful choices to all students. Our

hope is that all students will come see what this is about. Whether you sing, play guitar, trumpet, or just want to learn more, come check it out!”

This project needs help from the community. Instruments and clothing are expensive, especially for families in need. The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools has launched a campaign to support the project now and into the future.

Gifts will help the Foundation offer this opportunity at little or no cost to students. “We hope to raise \$35,000 for instruments and clothing,” Reber said. “We also hope to create a long-term endowed fund that will offer permanent support for instrument repair and maintenance. Lincoln is a diverse and supportive community. It will be fun to watch this new experience take wing.”

To find out more or support this unique musical experience, go to <https://bit.ly/MariachiLPS>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Beyond the Classroom	Cover	College and Career	3
Strong, Stable Families	2	News	4
Scholarship Story	2	Mark Your Calendars	4



Strong, Stable Families: Family Literacy for All

2GEN/WELLS FARGO



2Gen (Family Literacy) is a nationally recognized and innovative educational approach with a powerful premise. It brings students and families together to learn — challenging parents, guardians and their children to identify academic and life goals that will improve the quality of their lives.

Parents learn English language skills, cultural proficiency, life skills, job skills, parenting skills, homework tips, support in raising bilingual children and many other critical skills to help families honor their cultural heritage while adapting to life in Nebraska.

During part of the school day, adults receive basic lessons in language and literacy, as well as parenting skills. Then they spend time in their children's classrooms, learning right alongside them.

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools has identified 2Gen as a priority project and works to engage community partners to fund this vital work.

Wells Fargo is an important supporter of the 2Gen program, both financially and through volunteerism. Over the past three years, Wells Fargo has given \$25,000 to support the program. Tammy Peters, a Wells Fargo employee, teaches financial literacy to 2Gen parents. She does four sessions per class, teaching the basics like how to write a check, what to look for when you receive a check, even how to do an entry into the register. "I am extremely passionate about personal finance," Peters said. "It is so rewarding to give back to my community. People learn the basics about how to live in Lincoln,

Nebraska. For many, banking is hard - and for some they may not have banking in their home country."

Currently, there are about 3,100 English Language Learning students in our district, and as Lincoln's refugee population grows, 2Gen makes a remarkable difference for those who participate in the program. 2Gen is currently in 11 schools, and programs have between 14 to 20 families in each school. The cost to get a site up and running is approximately \$50,000, or \$25,000 to add a new session at an existing school.

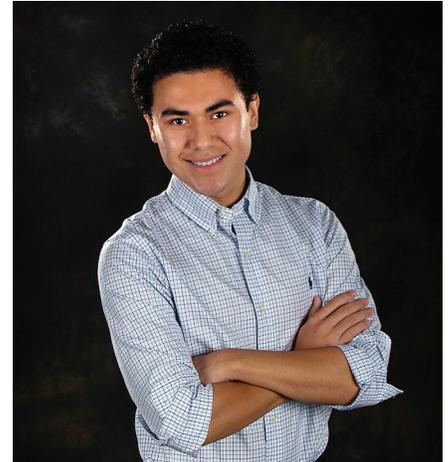
Peters notes that volunteering was an excellent customer service experience. Professionally, it helped her step back and understand how "common" things were maybe not so common. She took this information back to managers at branches so they understand the barriers and questions immigrants may have. "It was nice for participants to find out that there are bankers who speak their language," Peters said, "and to send people to those banks."

"I am extremely proud of Wells Fargo," Peters states. "They commit to their communities." She notes the *Wells Fargo at Work* program— a financial wellness piece — is offered for free to everyone. "Communities thrive if we can get people to understand how finances work."

For more information about the 2Gen program, go to <https://www.foundationforlps.org/2gen>.



Scholarship Story: Carstens Scholar



Recently, we heard from a 2016 winner of the Robert D Carstens Scholarship. "My college experience would not be the same without this scholarship, and you have made it possible for me to have one less thing to worry about by attending college," said Nestor Hernandez, currently a Data Science major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Nestor has done well at UNL, making the Spring 2018 Dean's List. "I have been a research assistant for the department chair of sociology, running data analytics. I have also been working as a research assistant for the Minority Health Disparities Initiative (MHD). The Robert D. Carstens scholarship has been essential to my experience, and has been a motivation each and every year."

Over the years, many generous individuals, businesses, and organizations have established scholarships at the Foundation. Last year, we were able to provide over 100 scholarships to 90 college-bound students. Scholarships for graduating seniors open December 18 and close on February 25.

Once open, applications will be available here: <https://www.foundationforlps.org/our-community/students/>



College and Career: Let's Hear it for Guac and Roll!

THE CAREER ACADEMY NATIONAL COMPETITIONS



Guac and Roll, a team from the culinary path of The Career Academy, placed in the top 25 of the National ProStart Invitational, a national culinary competition. It is the highest a team from Nebraska has ever placed at this annual competition which took place in April in Providence, Rhode Island. The Career Academy (TCA) team was comprised of Francisco Chavira Gonzalez and Sagan Smith, from Lincoln High, Tessa Mariscal, from Northeast, and Corbin Reinhardt, from Southwest.

“The Career Academy played a huge role in how I got to Nationals, without them I don’t think any of this would be possible,” said Ryley Schuerman, who attended TCA and placed 10th in the national Culinary Arts competition in 2016. “I’m excited that the culinary world is never staying the same, it is always evolving. I just want to be somewhere on the forefront of that.”

However, getting to the competition is half the challenge due to cost. “Half of our students are on free or reduced lunch and couldn’t normally afford to go to competitions,” said Joshua Jones, coordinator at The Career Academy. This statistic mirrors the level of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch throughout Lincoln Public Schools. “We do some creative fundraising, but sometimes that isn’t feasible.”

The Career Academy’s Student Experience Fund covers up to half of the cost to attend competitions.

The Career Academy’s Student Experience Fund at the Foundation covers up to half of the cost to attend competitions. Last year, 10 students who qualified for nationals received assistance to take part in those competitions.

“I had three students attend the National SKILLSUSA competition,” said Loran Stara, an instructor in Southeast Community College’s Building Construction Technology Program. “Just the magnitude of the event was an eye-opening experience for my students. This solidifies that need for a program like TCA. All of my students know there is a need for them in the real world, and with a little hard work and perseverance, this can be accomplished.”

These achievements and experiences wouldn’t be possible without the support of Lincoln’s business community and the Student Experiences Fund that the

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools uses to help students and teams, like Guac and Roll, cover the cost. “We choose to support The Career Academy because of their hands-on, career-based education,” said Jim Townsend, manager of occupational safety, learning and development at Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing. “It’s really cool when students are able to go to national competitions like Skills USA because they are gaining real work experience. It’s a great opportunity to support education in advanced manufacturing.”

The Career Academy is designed to address our community’s skilled and technical workforce needs. As a partnership between Lincoln Public Schools, Southeast Community College, and the business community, this project brings education and industry together to create high-quality, hands-on experiences backed by the rigor of academic credentials and certification.

TCA offers 16 career pathways representing hundreds of Southeast Nebraska industries. Through high engagement from local industry leaders, students have opportunities for internships, mentorships, scholarships, and field trip support.

“We are proud to be involved in TCA’s launch and growth, and grateful for the opportunity to make a difference,” Wendy Van, president of the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools said. “There is so much more these students can do because of our supportive community partners. That’s what makes Lincoln a special place to live.”



News

EDUCATOR AWARDS OPEN FOR NOMINATION SEPT 10 - NOV 9

Nominate an outstanding educator today, and help celebrate difference-makers in Lincoln Public Schools.
www.foundationforlps.org/educatorawards/page

Want to be more involved supporting our schools?

Become an Honor Roll Society member. The Honor Roll Society is made up of parents and community members who are committed to maintaining and supporting a strong public school system in Lincoln.
www.foundationforlps.org/honor-roll

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A big thank you to our board for their support and hard work helping all LPS students to reach their full potential.

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FLPS has been ranked by the Caruther's Institute as the #7 public school foundation.

Mark Your Calendars



Educator Awards

www.foundationforlps.org/educatorawards/page
September 10 - November 9



Foundation Coffee

Showcasing skilled and technical career exploration opportunities, including engineering, autotech, and more.

October 18
 Northeast High School
 9 am - 10:30 am



Honor Roll Events

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools' Honor Roll Society is made up of parents and community members who are committed to maintaining and supporting a strong public school system.

October 24
 Lincoln Public Schools District Office
 5905 O Street
 Noon-1:00 pm

November 8
 Country Club of Lincoln
 5:30 pm-7:00 pm



Giving Tuesday

Make a difference for all students, support the Foundation for LPS.

November 27



Scholarships Open

December 17 - February 22
 Go to www.foundationforlps.org/scholarships

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5905 O Street
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68510
 402.436.1612
foundation@lps.org