

RACHEL BLACKBURN JESSICA SHEPARD MADDIE SIMON



**THIS IS NEBRASKA**

# WELCOME TO NEBRASKA

Nebraska women's basketball has established itself as one of the nation's steadiest and most successful programs on the court, in the classroom and in the community over the last 20 years.

During that 20-year span, which dates first-year Coach Amy Williams' playing career at Nebraska, the Huskers have advanced to postseason play 16 times, including 11 trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Since 2010, Nebraska has averaged 23 wins per season and has made five NCAA Tournament appearances, including two trips to the NCAA Sweet 16 (2010, 2013). The Huskers have also finished among the top 25 in the final national rankings four times, while posting the four highest victory totals in school history since 2010.

Over the past seven seasons, Nebraska has played five games for a conference title, winning a Big Ten Tournament crown in 2014 and a Big 12 regular-season championship in 2010.

The Huskers, who moved into a spacious new practice home at the Hendricks Training Complex in the fall of 2011, built more excitement by adding Pinnacle Bank Arena as their new home court in 2013-14. The Big Red have ranked among the nation's top 12 in attendance in each of their first three seasons at Pinnacle Bank Arena, averaging more than 100,000 fans per season.

Individually, Kelsey Griffin, Lindsey Moore and Jordan Hooper were chosen among the top 15 players in their respective WNBA Drafts, while Hooper and Griffin earned first-team All-America honors for the Huskers. Huskers have earned 20 All-Big Ten awards in Nebraska's first five seasons in the Big Ten Conference, including 2014 Big Ten Player of the Year Jordan Hooper and 2014 Big Ten Tournament MVP Rachel Theriot.

In 2016, Jessica Shepard became the first Husker to capture Big Ten Freshman-of-the-Year honors while becoming the first freshman in Nebraska history to earn first-team all-conference recognition.

**“We're going to compete for championships, we're going to do it the right way, and most of all, we're going to do it together.”**

**Amy Williams, Nebraska Head Coach**



# HOME OF THE HUSKERS



Nebraska's rise to prominence in women's basketball has been built on the foundation of hard-working players who have put their talents together to form tremendous team chemistry.

Chelsea Aubry, the captain of the 2012 Canadian Olympic Team, laid the groundwork for Nebraska's success during the last decade. Aubry, a 6-2 forward from Kitchener, Ontario, spent eight seasons as a professional.

Danielle Page, a 6-2 forward from Monument, Colo., followed. A bronze medalist as a starter for the Serbian Olympic Team in 2016, Page completed her eighth season of professional basketball in 2015-16.

Kelsey Griffin came next, setting the standard for future Huskers. The 6-2 forward from Eagle River, Alaska, was a first-team All-American and National Player-of-the-Year finalist in 2010. The three-time first-team all-conference pick powered Nebraska's run to a perfect regular season, a Big 12 title and a No. 1 seed in the 2010 NCAA Tournament. Nebraska's first Senior CLASS Award winner was also NU's Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She went on to be the No. 3 pick in the 2010 WNBA Draft and earned WNBA All-Rookie honors. She enters her eighth season in professional basketball in 2016-17.

Nebraska's 2010 NCAA Sweet 16 team included seniors Cory Montgomery and Yvonne Turner. Both went on to pro careers. Turner enters her eighth season in professional basketball in 2016-17.

The youngster on the 2010 team, point guard Lindsey Moore, added to the Husker legacy by leading the program to the 2013 NCAA Sweet 16 before claiming a first-round pick in the WNBA Draft.

In 2013-14, three-time All-American and Big Ten Player of the Year Jordan Hooper continued to lead Nebraska's rise on the national scale. Hooper was the first pick in the second round of the 2014 WNBA Draft and recently completed her third season in the WNBA in 2016.

**"I could not be more excited to be back at the University of Nebraska. It's a great day, just like any day, to be a Husker."**

**Amy Williams, Nebraska Head Coach**

# NEBRASKA VALUES

## SUCCESS ON THE COURT

- Two NCAA Sweet 16 Appearances (2010, 2013)
- NCAA Tournament No. 1 Seed (2010)
- Top 25 Final National Rankings (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- Seven NCAA Tournament Appearances Since 2007
- 12 Postseason Tournaments Since 2004
- Averaged 23 Wins Per Season Since 2009-10
- Five Conference Title Games in Last Seven Years

## SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

- Every Nebraska Women's Basketball Senior Since 2003 Has Earned Her Degree
- 22 Huskers Have Earned Degrees Since 2010

## SUCCESS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Two-Time Nebraska Life Skills Team Champion
- Senior CLASS Award (Kelsey Griffin, 2010)
- Senior CLASS First-Team All-American (Jordan Hooper, 2014)
- Nebraska Female Student-Athlete of the Year (Kelsey Griffin, 2010)
- Nebraska Student-Athlete Advisory Committee President Kaitlyn Burke (2011-12)

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

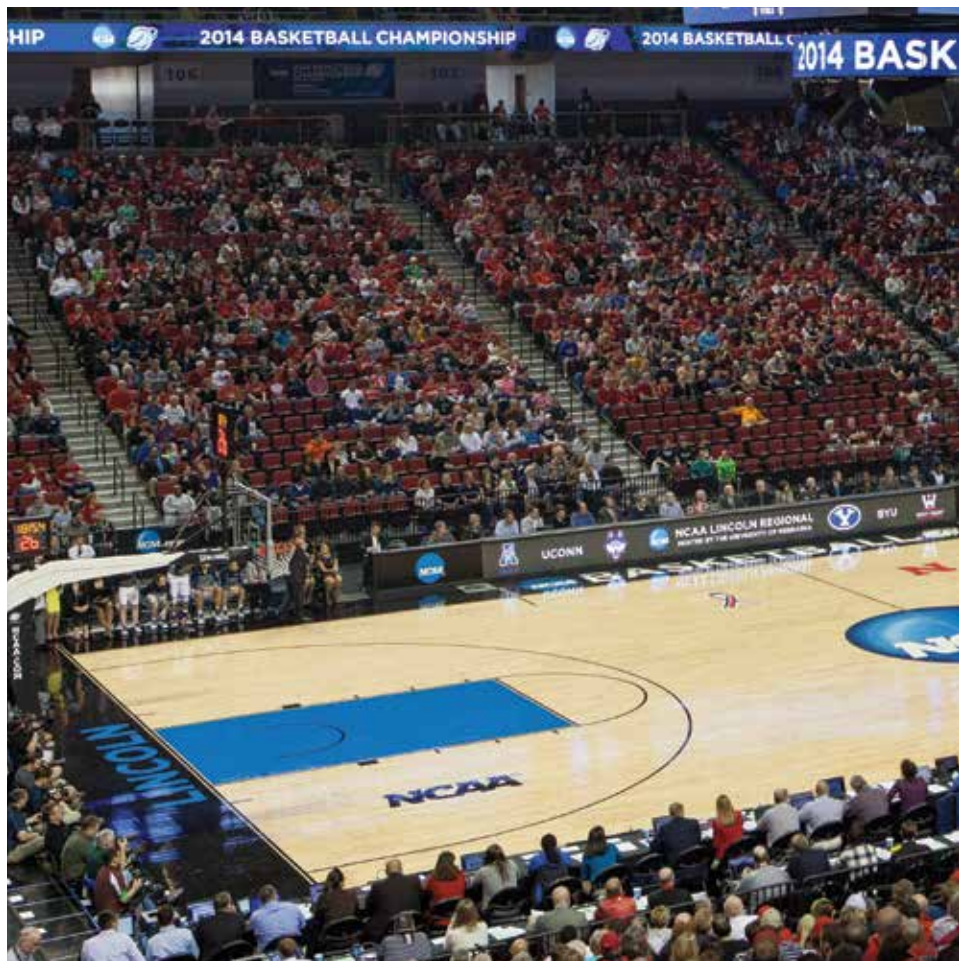
- Annually Ranked Among Top 15 Nationally in Average Attendance (12th in 2016)
- Averaged More Than 100,000 Fans Per Season in Pinnacle Bank Arena

## UNIVERSITY SUPPORT & FACILITIES

- Pinnacle Bank Arena (2013-14)
- Hendricks Training Complex (2011-12)
- Big Ten Conference (2011-12)
- Nebraska Student Life Complex (2010-11)

## SUCCESS AFTER NEBRASKA

- Jordan Hooper - WNBA Second Round (2014)  
Current WNBA and International Pro Career
- Lindsey Moore - WNBA First Round (2013)
- Kelsey Griffin - WNBA First Round/All-Rookie (2010)  
Current International Pro Career
- Cory Montgomery - WNBA Third Round (2010)
- Danielle Page - WNBA Free Agent (2008)  
2016 Serbian Olympic Bronze Medalist  
Current International Pro Career
- Kiera Hardy - WNBA Third Round (2007)  
Continued Pro Career in Europe
- Chelsea Aubry - 2012 Canadian Olympic Captain  
Continued Pro Career in Australia
- Yvonne Turner - Current International Pro Career
- Elena Diaz - Colombian National Team



# NCAA EXCITEMENT



Nebraska has earned 12 postseason tournament berths since 2004, including seven NCAA Tournament bids in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

In 2010, Nebraska claimed its first NCAA Tournament No. 1 seed, as the top team in the Midwest Region. The Huskers advanced to the NCAA Regional semifinals at the Sprint Center in Kansas City, Mo., by defeating Northern Iowa and UCLA in Minneapolis, Minn.

Thousands of Big Red fans followed Nebraska to Minneapolis and Kansas City to support the Huskers in their first NCAA Sweet 16 trip. Nebraska has made 13 NCAA Tournament trips since 1988 (1988, 1993, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) and owns eight NCAA Tournament victories, including a 74-54 win over Fresno State in 2014. The Huskers also advanced to the 2013 NCAA Sweet 16.

In 2014, the Huskers brought NCAA Tournament basketball back to Lincoln for the first time since 1993 when they played host to the NCAA Lincoln Regional at Pinnacle Bank Arena.



“This is the second time Nebraska has made the Sweet 16. The team is really excited. It was fun. We're enjoying the moment and playing for each other.”

**Jordan Hooper, Nebraska Class of 2014  
2014 First-Team All-American/Big Ten Player of the Year  
2014 WNBA Draft Pick**

“I am so privileged and blessed to spend this season with my teammates and best friends. Each season is really about the memories and the bonds you make with your teammates. I just want to make the most of it.”

**Kelsey Griffin, Nebraska Class of 2010  
2010 First-Team All-American/Big 12 Player of the Year  
2010 WNBA All-Rookie Team**

# WNBA TALENT

Nebraska players have made an impact in recent years in the WNBA. In fact, over the last six years four Huskers have been chosen in the WNBA Draft, including No. 13 overall pick and first-team All-American Jordan Hooper (opposite page, top) in 2014.

In 2010, first-team All-American Kelsey Griffin (top left) claimed the No. 3 overall pick in the WNBA Draft. In her first season with the Connecticut Sun, Griffin earned one of five spots on the 2010 WNBA All-Rookie Team. Griffin was No. 2 in rebounding among all rookies. Griffin completed her fifth WNBA season in 2014.

Point guard Lindsey Moore (bottom left) became Nebraska's third WNBA first-round draft pick in history in 2013, going to the Minnesota Lynx with the No. 12 pick. Moore helped the Lynx win the WNBA title in her rookie season.

Husker forward Cory Montgomery was a third-round WNBA pick of the New York Liberty in 2010. She continued her pro career in Europe and Australia.

In 2008, Husker forward Danielle Page earned a WNBA spot as a free agent with the Connecticut Sun. Page spent the entire 2008 season with the Sun before spending her past eight seasons as one of the top players in Europe. Page became the first Husker to win an Olympic medal when she captured bronze with Serbia in 2016.

In 2007, three-time first-team All-Big 12 guard Kiera Hardy was drafted in the third round by the Connecticut Sun. Hardy did not earn a final roster spot with the Sun, but spent two professional seasons overseas.

Chelsea Aubry enjoyed success at the international level. The 6-2 forward led Team Canada to the World Championships in 2006 and 2010, before becoming the first Husker to play in the Olympics in 2012. A Canadian captain, Aubry was a National Team member from 2005 to 2012, and played professionally in Australia with Kelsey Griffin for the WNBL champion Bendigo Spirit.

Anna DeForge (opposite page, bottom) enjoyed a long professional career after earning All-America honors at Nebraska in 1998. DeForge was an all-star for Indiana in 2007, after earning her first all-star nod with the Phoenix Mercury in 2004. DeForge also played professionally in Europe for 15 years.

The Huskers' first WNBA draft pick was Nebraskan Nicole Kubik. The 5-10 guard from Cambridge was NU's first WNBA first-round pick in 2000, and made her pro debut with the Phoenix Mercury in 2000.



# PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS



## HUSKERS IN THE WNBA

**Jordan Hooper (Alliance, Neb., 2014-16)**

- No. 13 Overall Pick in WNBA Draft (Tulsa Shock)

**Lindsey Moore (Covington, Wash., 2013-14)**

- No. 12 Overall Pick in WNBA Draft (Minnesota Lynx)

**Kelsey Griffin (Eagle River, Alaska, 2010-14)**

- WNBA All-Rookie Team (2010, Connecticut Sun)

- No. 3 Overall Pick in WNBA Draft (Minnesota Lynx)

**Yvonne Turner (Omaha, Neb., 2014-15)**

- San Antonio Silver Stars (Training Camp, 2014)

- Chicago Sky (Training Camp, 2015)

**Cory Montgomery (Cannon Falls, Minn., 2010)**

- Third-round selection of New York Liberty

**Anna DeForge (Niagara, Wis., 2000-08)**

- Two-Time WNBA All-Star

- Indiana Fever, Phoenix Mercury, Detroit Shock, Minnesota Lynx

**Danielle Page (Monument, Colo., 2008)**

- Connecticut Sun

**Kiera Hardy (Kansas City, Mo., 2007)**

- Third-round selection of the Connecticut Sun

**Nicole Kubik (Cambridge, Neb., 2000)**

- First-round pick of Los Angeles Sparks in 2000

- Played for Phoenix Mercury in 2000

## ANNA DEFORGE, TWO-TIME WNBA ALL-STAR

Anna DeForge enjoyed a long and impressive pro career after her playing days at Nebraska. Active as a professional player in Europe in 2014-15, DeForge was a pro player for 16 years and was a two-time WNBA All-Star.

An honorable-mention All-American and first-team All-Big 12 pick in 1998, DeForge made her last All-Star appearance with Indiana in 2007. She helped the Fever to the second round of the 2007 WNBA Playoffs. In the first round, she tied her career high with 31 points against Connecticut, before pumping in 26 points in a Game 2.

In 1999, DeForge was a first-round pick of the San Jose Lasers in the ABL. In 2000, she was the first Husker to earn a WNBA roster spot with the Detroit Shock. After being out of the league in 2001 and 2002, she regained a roster spot with the Phoenix Mercury in 2003. She earned her first WNBA All-Star appearance with the Mercury in 2004. She spent 2005 in Phoenix before joining the Indiana Fever in 2006. She played for the Minnesota Lynx in 2008.

Internationally, she played professionally in Poland, Spain, Turkey and the Czech Republic. She was a member of the Montenegro National Team from 2010 to 2012.

# PINNACLE BANK ARENA



The Nebraska women's basketball program entered a new era in 2013-14 with the move into the \$179 million Pinnacle Bank Arena. Located in downtown Lincoln, the 15,000-seat arena is the centerpiece of a bold and dynamic city plan. A landmark venture that shows the cooperative spirit across the community, the arena is the permanent home of Nebraska men's and women's basketball while serving as one of the Midwest's hottest spots for the nation's top touring shows.

The arena, which is just steps away from both Memorial Stadium and Hawks Field and Bowlin Stadium at Haymarket Park, also serves as a hub for a new outdoor entertainment district in Lincoln, known as the Railyard. In addition to the economic impact of thousands of Husker fans at each basketball home game, the Haymarket area has seen the addition of several major hotels, upscale housing options and many new dining and entertainment options.

*Top: The South entrance of Pinnacle Bank Arena faces the new Railyard outdoor entertainment district in downtown Lincoln. The arena seats more than 15,000 fans and includes 36 suites, 20 loge boxes and 832 club seats. It also includes 11 permanent concession stands, 14 portable locations and 85 total points of sale. The arena is also home to the new Nebraska Team Shop.*

*Bottom: The women's locker room entrance includes a large "N" identical to the design in the Hendricks Training Complex. The Huskers enjoy spacious locker room, team room and athletic medicine areas in the arena.*



# GAME DAY EXPERIENCE



*Top: Nearly 10,000 fans were on hand for Nebraska's season-opening win against UCLA to open Pinnacle Bank Arena on Nov. 8, 2013. The noon tip on a Friday against the Bruins allowed the Husker men to play later that night at the arena, as 25,000 basketball fans filled the arena for two games on its official opening day.*



*Middle: Pinnacle Bank Arena's ribbon cutting ceremony attracted Nebraska's Governor, Lincoln's Mayor, the University Chancellor and Director of Athletics Shawn Eichorst along with Nebraska's men's and women's basketball coaches.*

*Middle and Bottom: The Railyard entertainment includes a courtyard, an outdoor ice skating rink and a giant 750-square-foot screen known as The Cube.*

# HENDRICKS COMPLEX



The Nebraska women's basketball program moved into a new home on Oct. 13, 2011, with the official opening of the Hendricks Training Complex. The \$18.7 million addition to the southwest side of the Bob Devaney Sports Center is the practice home of the men's and women's basketball and wrestling programs. The Hendricks Training Complex provided 80,000 new square feet to NU's facilities, while also renovating 4,000 square feet inside the Devaney Center. The entire facility was specifically designed to maximize performance and efficiency for current and future Husker student-athletes, while providing technologically advanced settings to succeed.



*The grand lobby of the Hendricks Training Complex (bottom left) includes a 5,500-pound granite basketball fountain with a net-like base. The lobby also includes a giant video wall with 14 monitors.*

*The Players' Corridor (bottom right) is a common hallway leading to the men's and women's basketball team areas that features an LED sensor lighting system with 3-D basketballs.*



# TRAINING FOR CHAMPIONS



Nebraska's practice gym (top) is just steps away from the team room, video room and locker room on the main level of the Hendricks Training Complex. In between the gym, a satellite athletic medicine area provides easy taping and immediate treatment for the Huskers.



Nebraska's team lounge (bottom right) includes three 65-inch TVs, along with a food preparation area (middle left) that includes a full-size refrigerator and a microwave. The lounge is in between the practice court and video room (bottom left), which includes a wall-sized video screen and 23 theater-style chairs with swivel arm tables.

Nebraska's locker room (middle right) features giant "N" graphics on the floor and ceiling, while the 20 personalized lockers include iPads.

# CHAMPIONSHIP FACILITIES

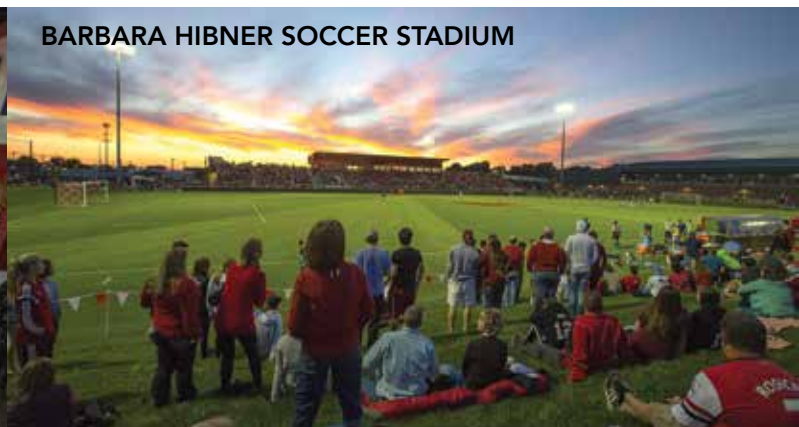
From training facilities to competition venues, Nebraska's athletic facilities are second-to-none across the collegiate landscape. From Memorial Stadium to Pinnacle Bank Arena and the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Husker student-athletes have the benefits of training and competing in some of the nation's finest facilities. Fans around the country follow the Huskers with amazing passion across all sports. In 2015-16, Nebraska finished second in the nation in attendance across its seven primary team sports, attracting more than 1.3 million fans to its home stadiums and arenas. Overall, 10 of Nebraska's sports ranked among the top-15 nationally in attendance in 2015-16.



MEMORIAL STADIUM



BOB DEVANEY SPORTS CENTER



BARBARA HIBNER SOCCER STADIUM



ED WEIR STADIUM



HENDRICKS TRAINING COMPLEX



BOWLIN STADIUM



SID AND HAZEL DILLON TENNIS CENTER



PINNACLE BANK ARENA



HAWKS FIELD AT HAYMARKET PARK

# NATIONAL POWERS



The Nebraska volleyball team captured its fourth NCAA title with a win over Texas in the championship match at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha on Dec. 19, 2015. Five Husker volleyball players, including NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player Mikaela Foecke, earned All-America honors in 2015. Volleyball's championship was the first of seven top-10 NCAA team finishes for Husker programs in 2015-16.



Ryan Boldt helped the Huskers advance to the 2016 NCAA Tournament. The two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American was chosen in the second round of the 2016 MLB Draft by the Tampa Bay Rays.



Tierra Williams earned a trio of All-America awards in 2016. She finished fifth in the triple jump at the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships. She also swept the Big Ten indoor and outdoor titles in the triple and long jumps.



Nick Percy captured the 2016 NCAA discus crown. The two-time All-American from Ventnor, England, also won the Big Ten discus title to help the Husker men sweep the Big Ten indoor and outdoor championships.



MJ Knighten claimed first-team All-America honors at third base while helping the Nebraska softball team advance to the 2016 NCAA Regional final. Knighten hit .376 with 21 homers and 60 RBIs in 55 games.



Julia Bond earned first-team All-America honors by leading the Nebraska bowling team to an NCAA runner-up finish in 2016. Bond was the Most Outstanding Bowler in powering NU to the 2015 NCAA team title.

# BIG TEN LEADERS



The Nebraska men's track and field team swept the Big Ten indoor and outdoor titles, giving the Big Red their first sweep since 2004. A total of 19 Huskers combined for 24 All-America awards in men's and women's track and field in 2016.



TJ Dudley (184 pounds) took second at the 2016 NCAA Wrestling Championships. NU's Male Athlete of the Year, Dudley helped the Huskers to eighth place for their 20th top-10 team finish in history.



Kadie Rolfzen captured first-team All-America honors as an outside hitter while leading the Nebraska volleyball team to the 2015 NCAA title. Rolfzen, a three-time All-American, was Nebraska's Female Athlete of the Year.



Shavon Shields earned second-team All-Big Ten honors after averaging 16.8 points and 5.1 rebounds in 2015-16. Nebraska's Male Student-Athlete of the Year, Shields was a two-time first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American.



A six-time All-American and two-time Big Ten champion for the Nebraska women's gymnastics team in her career, Hollie Blanske took third on vault at the 2016 NCAA Championships to help the Huskers finish eighth.

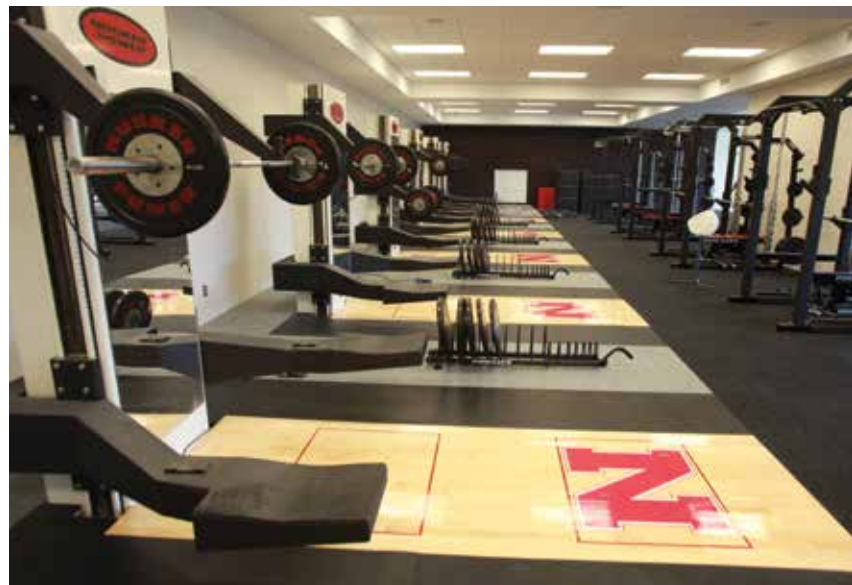
**NATION'S BEST FANS**  
Nebraska was the only NCAA Division I program to rank in the top 15 nationally in attendance in football and men's basketball in 2015-16. In fact, Nebraska ranked in the top 15 in attendance across 10 sports and drew well over 1.3 million fans in 2015-16.

VOLLEYBALL	1 <sup>ST</sup>
M. GYMNASTICS	2 <sup>ND</sup>
BASEBALL	8 <sup>TH</sup>
WRESTLING	10 <sup>TH</sup>
FOOTBALL	11 <sup>TH</sup>
M. BASKETBALL	11 <sup>TH</sup>
W. BASKETBALL	12 <sup>TH</sup>
W. SOCCER	13 <sup>TH</sup>
W. GYMNASTICS	15 <sup>TH</sup>
SOFTBALL	15 <sup>TH</sup>

# STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

The model strength and conditioning program in the nation, Husker Power plays a major role in the continuing success of Nebraska athletics. Nebraska's strength program was the first in the nation. With 14 staff members, including Women's Basketball Strength Coach Rusty Ruffcorn, it is one of the most comprehensive strength and conditioning organizations in the nation.

Nebraska's strength training facilities have set the standard in collegiate strength training since the early 1970s. Not only does it feature the Charles and Romona Myers Performance Center in the Osborne Athletic Complex, it also features a weight room utilized by the basketball teams in the Hendricks Training Complex.



# BECOMING HUSKER TOUGH



## THREE REASONS FOR SUCCESS

**Program** - The Husker Power Strength and Conditioning Program is geared for maximum improvement of performance on the court. Each athlete receives their own individual computerized program each year.

**Supervision** - The Husker Power staff has 14 full-time strength and conditioning specialists. Women's Basketball Strength Coach Rusty Ruffcorn works directly with the women's basketball program to help Husker athletes prepare for a successful athletic career.

**Facilities** - The Charles and Romona Myers Performance Center in the Osborne Athletic Complex and the Hendricks Training Complex are the finest all-around athletic facilities in the nation, giving athletes the resources to achieve at the highest level.

“The University of Nebraska strength and development program is the model for others in the country.”

Phillip Hage, Editor,  
Physician and Sports  
Medicine Magazine

# ATHLETIC MEDICINE

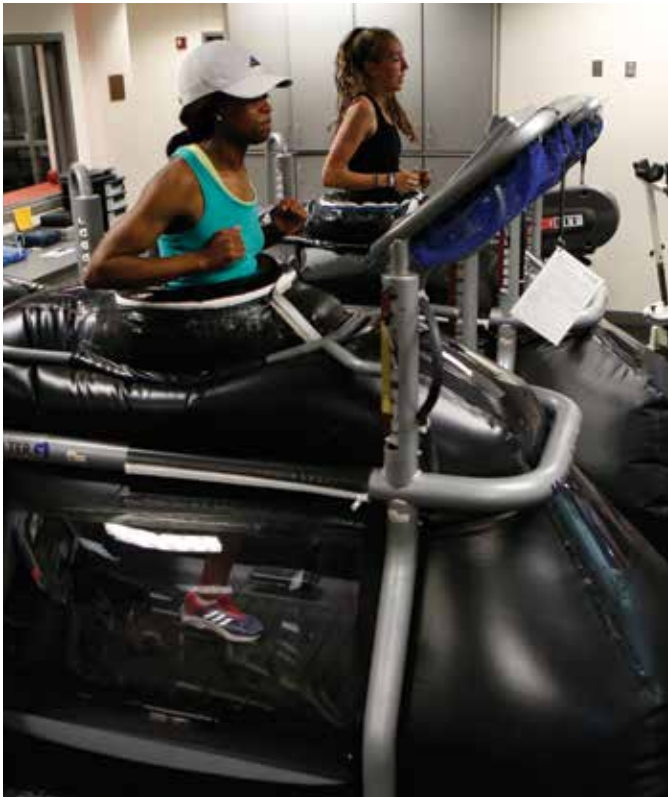


## ATHLETIC MEDICINE

Providing expert care to more than 600 Husker student-athletes, Nebraska features one of the most well-trained and highly skilled athletic medicine staffs in the country. Under the guidance of Director of Athletic Medicine Dr. Lonnie Albers, Head Athletic Trainer and Physical Therapist Jerry Weber, and women's basketball athletic trainer Ashley Rudolph, the 2016-17 Nebraska athletic medicine staff consists of five doctors, 14 full-time athletic trainers, seven graduate assistant athletic trainers, two full-time in-house athletic psychologists and sports psychiatry consultants who work directly with student-athletes.

Nebraska's medical facilities have long been among the nation's best, and NU's athletic medicine center within the Tom and Nancy Osborne Athletic Complex will keep the Huskers on the front line of technology for decades to come. In addition to Nebraska's North Stadium facility, Haymarket Park, the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Pinnacle Bank Arena and the Nebraska Soccer and Tennis Complex all feature athletic medicine areas. The Devaney Center's Athletic Medicine facility underwent an extensive expansion as part of the Hendricks Training Complex addition in 2011.

# CARING FOR HUSKERS



Nebraska uses advanced equipment to help athletes recondition after injury.



Nebraska's Athletic Medicine Center features a hydrotherapy area that includes a three-level laned pool. The Hydroworx 1000 Treadmill Pool is equipped with two cameras underwater for evaluation and assessment.



The hot and cold plunge tanks in the Holthus Family Hydrotherapy area help the Huskers recover after workouts and injuries.



Nebraska's on-site medical services for student-athletes rank among the nation's best. Dr. Lonnie Albers, Head Athletic Trainer Jerry Weber (pictured) and the Athletic Medicine staff have their own X-ray equipment at Memorial Stadium.

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Nebraska increased its nation-leading total of CoSIDA Academic All-America awards to 325, adding five Huskers in 2015-16. Senior guard Shavon Shields (Olathe, Kan., Biological Sciences) earned his second consecutive first-team Academic All-America award in men's basketball before being named Nebraska's Male Student-Athlete of the Year. Shields (pictured right with Director of Athletics Shawn Eichorst) was also a member of the Allstate NABC Good Works Team for his outstanding community service. He was joined by Nebraska Female Student-Athlete-of-the-Year Mattie Fowler (Tucson, Ariz., Finance) as a first-team Academic All-American in 2015-16. Fowler (pictured below) was the President of the Nebraska Student-Athlete Advisory Board in 2014-15. She and Shields were Nebraska's Big Ten Medal of Honor winners in 2015-16.

The Nebraska men's track and field team continued its extraordinary run of CoSIDA Academic All-America success with three-time first-team honoree Levi Gipson (Lincoln, Neb., Nutrition, Exercise and Health Science) and fellow first-team award winner Cody Rush (Grand Island, Neb., Nutrition Science). Rush, who earned second-team CoSIDA Academic All-America accolades in 2014, joined baseball outfielder Ryan Boldt (Red Wing, Minn., Nutrition Science) as a two-time honoree. Boldt also earned third-team recognition in 2015.

Graduation is the ultimate achievement, and 109 Husker student-athletes earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in three commencement exercises at Pinnacle Bank Arena in 2015-16.



A total of 109 Nebraska student-athletes earned their degrees in 2015-16, including 62 in May 2016, 39 in December 2015 and eight in August 2015. Brandi Jeffery (above left) earned her bachelor's degree in May of 2015. Jeffery (Vacherie, La.) was a four-year contributor who helped the Huskers to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances from 2012 to 2015. Emily Cady (above right) also earned her bachelor's degree in May of 2015. Cady was a four-year starter and produced more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in her career. Nebraska ranks among the nation's elite women's basketball teams with a 100 percent graduation rate.

# HONORING ACHIEVEMENT



Eight Husker seniors with 3.900 GPAs or better earned Outstanding Scholar Awards in 2015-16, including Melanie Blum (Track and Field), Michaela Cunningham (Swimming and Diving), Levi Gipson (Track and Field), Lane Hovey (Football), Ryan Irick (Men's Gymnastics), Katie Kraeutner (Soccer, pictured above), Ethan Lottman (Men's Gymnastics) and Cody Rush (Track and Field).



Nebraska student-athletes regularly earn prestigious postgraduate scholarships from the Big Ten and NCAA. That tradition continued in 2015-16, as two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American Cody Rush earned a \$10,000 Wayne Duke Postgraduate Scholarship from the Big Ten before claiming an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship worth \$7,500. Rush was also an 11-time All-American.



In 2015-16, 109 Huskers earned college degrees including senior track and field standout Levi Gipson. He became the second three-time first-team CoSIDA Academic All-American across all sports at Nebraska, while adding prestigious NCAA and Big Ten Postgraduate scholarships worth \$15,000. Gipson was a seven-time All-American on the track.



Junior outfielder Ryan Boldt earned his second CoSIDA Academic All-America award in 2016, after helping the Nebraska baseball team to the NCAA Tournament. Boldt, who was a member of the Golden Spikes Award Midseason Watch List, was a second-round pick of the Tampa Bay Rays in the 2016 Major League Baseball Draft.

## 2015-16 ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

**325 All-Time CoSIDA Academic All-Americans**  
(leads nation across all sports)  
**107 Football CoSIDA Academic All-Americans**  
(leads all sports, all time)  
**37 Volleyball CoSIDA Academic All-Americans**  
(leads all women's sports, all time)  
**30 Softball CoSIDA Academic All-Americans**  
(No. 3 among all women's sports, all time)  
**43 Men's & Women's Track & Field/Cross Country CoSIDA Academic All-Americans**  
(leads nation since CoSIDA added team in 2002)

**Five CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in 2015-16**  
(4 first-team, 1 third-team)  
First Team: Mattie Fowler (Softball)  
Levi Gipson (Men's Track & Field)  
Cody Rush (Men's Track & Field)  
Shavon Shields (Men's Basketball)  
Third Team: Ryan Boldt (Baseball)

**NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships (\$7,500)**  
Levi Gipson (Men's Track & Field)  
Cody Rush (Men's Track & Field)

**Wayne Duke Postgraduate Scholarship (\$10,000)**  
Cody Rush (Men's Track & Field)

**Big Ten Postgraduate Scholarships (\$7,500 each)**  
Melanie Blum (Women's Track & Field)  
Levi Gipson (Men's Track & Field)

**Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Award (31)**  
Oladapo Akinmoladun (Men's Track & Field), Paula Andrie (Women's Track & Field), Lia Baldo (Soccer), Alexandra Bilunas (Swimming & Diving), Julia Bond (Bowling), Jasmine Cincore (Women's Basketball), Kristen Dowell (Women's Track & Field), Jordan Ehly (Swimming & Diving), Jerald Foster (Football), Francesca Giganti (Swimming & Diving), Briana Holman (Volleyball), Danielle Jones (Women's Track & Field), Harrison Jordan (Football), Mackenna Maddox-Herr (Women's Tennis), Gazmine Mason (Bowling), Sydney Miramontez (Soccer), Sanjaya Roy (Men's Gymnastics), Givens Price (Football), Christian Sanderfer (Men's Track & Field), Tristen Sharp (Women's Track & Field), Shavon Shields (Men's Basketball), Morgan Smith (Women's Track & Field), Rachel Theriot (Women's Basketball), Toni Tupper (Women's Track & Field), Kevin Williams (Football), Tierra Williams (Women's Track & Field), Aaron Wong (Men's Golf), Dedrick Young (Football).

**Male Student-Athlete of the Year**  
Shavon Shields, Men's Basketball

**Female Student-Athlete of the Year**  
Mattie Fowler, Softball

**Big Ten Medal of Honor Winners**  
Mattie Fowler (Softball)  
Shavon Shields (Men's Basketball)

**Big Ten Sportsmanship Award Winners**  
Austin Wilson (Wrestling)  
Tierra Williams (Women's Track & Field)

**Herman Team GPA Award Winners**  
Men's Tennis Team (3.418 GPA)  
Women's Swimming & Diving Team (3.581 GPA)

**Life Skills Award of Excellence Team Winners**  
Baseball  
Volleyball

**685 Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll Selections**  
Fall (356), Spring (329) (3.0 GPA or above)

**209 Academic All-Big Ten Selections**  
(Letterwinner with a 3.0 GPA or above)

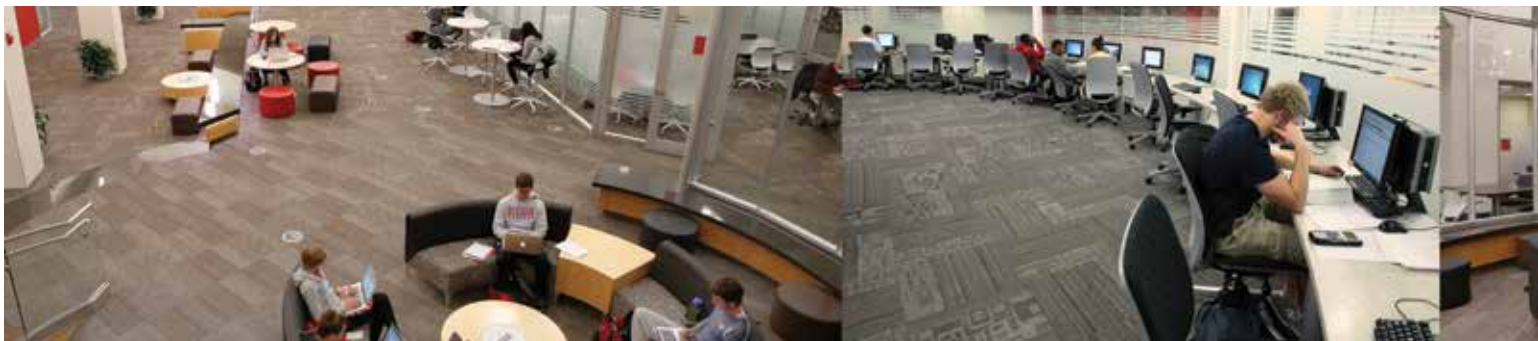
**109 Husker Graduates**  
8, August 2015; 39, December 2015; 62, May 2016

**91 Perfect 4.0 GPA Semesters**  
Fall (38), Spring (53)

**67 Nebraska Big Ten Distinguished Scholars**  
3.7 GPA or better, 2015-16



## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE





“Nebraska's academic culture is second to none. If you need any assistance, all you have to do is ask. Nebraska has the top-of-the-line academic counselors, computer support, tutorial staff, supplementary instruction and life skills program. The environment is constructed to be a positive, uplifting place that promotes consistent support of each athlete's education.”

**Karen Jennings, 1993 Wade Trophy Winner  
2008 CoSIDA Academic All-America Hall of Fame Inductee  
2015 Nebraska Athletics Hall of Fame Inductee**

The athletic academic unit, located in the Dick and Peg Herman Family Student Life Complex, provides personal and academic support to ensure that student-athletes will get the most out of their years as Huskers. Featuring one of the most innovative and comprehensive academic support systems in the country, Nebraska is dedicated to helping its student-athletes become outstanding leaders in their chosen fields. The academic support team is composed of 14 full-time staff members and is certified by the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) as meeting the standards established by the N4A.

### **ACADEMIC COUNSELING**

Seven academic counselors, three learning specialists and two assistant academic counselors are in place to monitor daily academic progress, receive consistent course feedback, assist with the advising/registration process and monitor continuing eligibility and progress toward graduation.

### **TUTORIAL SUPPORT**

A tremendous resource for all academic abilities, unlimited tutorial support from approximately 120 tutors on staff is available from day one up to college graduation in all subject areas. The tutorial program is certified as a model tutoring program by the College Reading and Learning Association.

### **STUDY HALL**

Nebraska's study hall program is housed in the D.J. Sokol Enrichment Center within the Student Life Complex. Student-athletes attend a supervised, flex-time study hall that features day, evening and weekend hours. Student-athletes are required to complete a specific number of study hours each week as determined by their academic counselor and/or coach. Additional performance-based or tutor-based study hall also may be determined by the academic counselor.

### **MENTORING**

Academic support staff serve as mentors to all incoming student-athletes and a select group of returning student-athletes. Student-athletes meet with their mentor weekly to develop time management skills, gather and report academic progress information, and discuss academic success strategies.

### **EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS**

Assessments are administered upon the request of the student-athlete, academic counselor, or coach. Learning specialists are available to administer and score informal assessments, which include a reading comprehension and a writing assessment. When more in-depth assessments are necessary, referrals are made to a consulting psychologist who conducts the assessments. If it is determined a student-athlete has a learning disability or another medical condition that impedes the student from reaching their academic potential, appropriate accommodations are implemented by the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE ORIENTATION**

Each new student-athlete attends an orientation at the beginning of their academic career. Student-athletes are introduced to staff, faculty, administrators, and a variety of resources that help facilitate the transition into college while enhancing awareness of support services in the Athletic Department and across campus.

### **PERSONAL COUNSELING**

Student-athletes will find a supportive and caring environment at Nebraska. Transitional issues, stress management, time management, academic focus and problem resolution are all addressed in a proactive manner throughout the year. If necessary, counseling referrals are also made to designated practitioners.

### **COMPUTER RESOURCES**

The Herman Student Life Complex has two computer labs available for student-athletes. The Scott Technology Center features two tech tables for use on group computer projects and group study sessions. Additionally, each student-athlete is provided a laptop for use throughout their academic career at Nebraska.

*Construction was completed in the fall of 2010 on the Nebraska Student Life Complex, which nearly tripled the size of NU's previous academic space. The Dick and Peg Herman Family Student Life Complex also features a new technology center and a dedicated Life Skills area and the Papik Computer lab (left).*



# STUDENT-ATHLETE LIFE

In May of 2016, 20 Husker student-athletes, a Nebraska letterwinner alum and four staff members participated in a service trip abroad to the Dominican Republic. The Huskers spent time with members of the community of Las Pajas to create a local sports court and create a mural at a community center.



In August of 2014, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors restructured the way member institutions and conferences, including the Big Ten, govern themselves. Nebraska has a great history and tradition of providing unmatched benefits and support to student-athletes. However, this change in governance, and subsequent legislation, paved the way for Nebraska to enhance the benefits and experiences for student-athletes. A few examples of these enhanced benefits are:

- All scholarship student-athletes across all sports have their scholarship calculated based on the full cost of attendance.
- Each student-athlete is offered an Apple MacBook Air laptop computer to enhance their learning opportunities (pictured top left).
- Nebraska has increased resources and support in all academic and performance related areas including but not limited to Academic Services, Life Skills, Athletic Medicine, Athletic Training, Strength and Conditioning, Nebraska Athletic Performance Laboratory, Nutrition and Dining Services (Training Table) and Sports Analytics.
- Nebraska created the first-known Post-Eligibility Opportunity (PEO) program, where every student-athlete graduate who has exhausted their athletic eligibility has the opportunity to pursue (with Nebraska support) an internship, participate in a study abroad program or attend graduate school.



## HONORING ACHIEVEMENT

Jessica Shepard shared Nebraska's first Female Newcomer-of-the-Year honors across all sports with volleyball freshman Mikaela Foecke in 2016. Shepard, who was Nebraska's first women's basketball Big Ten Freshman of the Year, set Nebraska freshman records with 18.5 points and 8.6 rebounds per game.



## LIFE SKILLS AWARDS

Emily Wood earned a prestigious Nebraska Student-Athlete HERO Leadership Award in 2016. The awards are presented to Nebraska's most committed student-athletes across all sports to leadership and community service.

# EXPERIENCES OF A LIFETIME

## SERVICE TO A MUCH LARGER COMMUNITY

The Nebraska Life Skills program offered its second service trip abroad in 2016, taking 20 student-athletes to the Dominican Republic to help the community of Las Pajas. Husker women's basketball student-athlete Emily Wood (front row, third from right) participated in the memorable trip along with student-athletes from across Nebraska's 24 varsity sports.



## SUCCESS IN COMPETITION, CLASSROOM, COMMUNITY

Nebraska women's basketball freshman Grace Mitchell was one of many Husker student-athletes to participate in the Husker Heroes event at Memorial Stadium in September. Mitchell spent time alongside Husker men's basketball freshman Jeriah Horne assisting special needs children in a fun-filled day of activities at the annual event. Nearly every Nebraska women's student-athlete has earned at least one spot on the Tom Osborne Citizenship Team during its first three years of existence. The Osborne Citizenship Team recognizes student-athletes across all sports who complete a minimum of six service projects in a calendar year.

## NEBRASKA LIFE SKILLS

Regarded as the premier and most comprehensive Life Skills program in college athletics, the Husker program is committed to providing proactive education, resources and support throughout college and beyond, promoting total person development and preparation for life after sports. Five full-time staff members coordinate a wide array of services benefiting Husker student-athletes.

## PROACTIVE EDUCATION

The Life Skills team organizes several orientations aimed at acclimating student-athletes to college life. Additionally, all incoming student-athletes attend the fall semester Husker Life Seminar. This interactive class promotes responsible decision-making, personal brand, financial literacy, leadership, involvement and service.

## INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Every Nebraska student-athlete is assigned a Life Skills Coordinator who arranges individual meetings during the academic year to enhance personal and career development. The meetings help student-athletes identify a career focus and implement a plan to increase career marketability.

## CAREER COMMITMENT

Annually, Nebraska Life Skills organizes a Student-Athlete Career, Networking Night and other career events aimed at connecting Huskers with companies desiring competitive, hard-working, accountable candidates. Athlete Network and Husker Hire Link provide opportunities to explore career opportunities across the country.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Nebraska student-athletes readily accept the role-model challenge, giving more than 2,500 hours annually to impact 25,000 across Nebraska. Outreach events include hospital visits, mentoring, school assemblies, statewide rallies (including the Sportsmanship 4 Life Pep Rally, Make-A-Wish, NFL Play 60 and Husker Heroes).

## LEADERSHIP

Nebraska Life Skills provides student-athletes with opportunities to enhance leadership skills while distinguishing themselves from the competition. Student-athletes can participate in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Uplifting Athletes or Husker Distinction Council. UNL offers more than 600 recognized student organizations allowing athletes to collaborate with campus leaders for common goals. Nebraska Life Skills funds and coordinates an annual one-week service abroad trip that allows 20 student-athletes to work toward a common goal while enriching cultural competencies.

## RECOGNITION

In 2015-16, a record 347 Husker student-athletes were named to the Tom Osborne Citizenship Team for completing a minimum of six service projects in the calendar year. A host of other recognition opportunities at the institutional, Big Ten and NCAA levels that all reflect the high ideals, character and servant leadership nurtured through community involvement also are available.

## POST-ELIGIBILITY OPPORTUNITIES

Effective December 2015 and beyond, student-athletes who letter and graduate have a three-year window to benefit from one of three post-eligibility opportunities (\$7,500 each). Upon completion of required seminars, graduates can either study abroad, complete an internship or begin graduate school within the University of Nebraska system.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Life Skills program is responsible for all Diversity and Inclusion initiatives for Husker Athletics. The first Diversity and Inclusion Summit occurred in January of 2016 and reached all student-athletes and staff with a message of acceptance and unity.

# NEBRASKA: LEADING THE WAY

The University of Nebraska was chartered by the Nebraska Legislature in 1869 as the state's public university and land-grant institution. Founded in Lincoln, the University of Nebraska was expanded in 1968 into a state educational system now comprising four campuses under the guidance of a Board of Regents and a central administration. Nebraska, which joined the Big Ten Conference in 2011, is a member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance, a consortium of Big Ten universities and the University of Chicago, which has generated unique opportunities for students and faculty by sharing expertise, leveraging resources and collaborating on programs.

Discover more about the University of Nebraska at [unl.edu](http://unl.edu).



### BIG TEN ACADEMIC ALLIANCE (BTAA)

As a member of the Big Ten, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) is a member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), formerly the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, which is the academic consortium of the universities in the Big Ten Conference. The consortium was renamed on June 29, 2016. The BTAA includes all 14 Big Ten Institutions and the University of Chicago. The Big Ten Academic Alliances and the institutions together have annual research expenditures topping \$10.2 billion — more than the Ivy League and the University of California System combined — and they educate a total of nearly 600,000 students with approximately 50,000 full-time faculty members.



#### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MISSION

As a land-grant university there are three primary missions of the University: teaching, research and service. UNL is the state's primary intellectual center providing leadership throughout the state through quality education and the generation of new knowledge.

#### UNL COLLEGES

- Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
- Architecture
- Arts and Sciences
- Business Administration
- Education and Human Sciences
- Engineering
- Hixson-Lied Fine and Performing Arts
- Journalism and Mass Communications
- Law

# UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

## INNOVATION CAMPUS

Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC), which is designed to facilitate new and more in-depth partnership with UNL and the private sector, opened its first buildings in the summer of 2014. The Food Innovation Center and Greenhouse Innovation Center both opened in 2015.



70

MASTERS PROGRAMS

135

UNL HAS STUDENTS FROM  
135 COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS ALL 50 STATES

149

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

611

RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

25,897

UNL RECORD ENROLLMENT (FALL, 2016)

194,620

LIVING ALUMNI



Nebraska's Outdoor Adventure Center opened in 2014 and features a 42-foot rock climbing wall in the heart of campus.



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Van Brunt Visitors Center welcomes current, former and future Huskers to campus on a daily basis.

Bottom: The 30,000-square foot Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center is the nation's largest multicultural center attached to a student union.



### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA NATIONAL RANKINGS

- Rated among Top 100 Top National Universities (U.S. News & World Report)
- Rated among Top 50 Public National Universities (U.S. News & World Report)
- Rated among top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges (Kiplinger's Personal Finance)
- No. 2 Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 2 Best Online Graduate Education Programs for Veterans (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 6 Best Online MBA Programs (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 11 Best Online Graduate Education Programs (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 17 Speech-Language Pathology Grad Schools (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 20 Best College for Veterans (U.S. News & World Report)

# WELCOME TO LINCOLN

One of the nation's largest 75 cities, Lincoln features many of the benefits of an urban setting and is only minutes away from the scenic beauty and wide open spaces of America's Heartland. The third-largest city in the Big Ten, Lincoln enables Nebraska student-athletes to enjoy the benefits of city life while residing in a community which is widely regarded as one of the top places to live in the United States.



## LINCOLN'S NATIONAL RANKINGS

- Happiest U.S. City (LiveScience)
- Healthiest U.S. City (Center for Disease Control)
- Best Sport City (The Sporting News)
- Lowest Unemployment Rate (Bureau of Labor)
- Best Cities for Families (Child Magazine)
- No. 1 Overall Wellbeing (Gallup)
- No. 1 Quality of Life (State University of New York)
- No. 2 City in Quality of Life (Gallup)
- No. 7 Cleanest Air (CNN)
- No. 7 City for Business & Careers (Forbes)
- No. 8 Most Secure Places to Live (Sperling's)
- No. 8 Wallet Wellness/Affordability (WalletHub)
- Top 10 College Town (Relocate America)



Some of the artists who have played Pinnacle Bank Arena to huge crowds since it opened in 2013 include Katy Perry (pictured above), Jay-Z, Justin Bieber, Kenny Chesney, Lil' Wayne, Jason Aldean, Pink, Miranda Lambert, Paul McCartney, Blake Shelton, Pearl Jam and Carrie Underwood.

Modeled after the Power and Light District in Kansas City, the Railyard is near the front entrance of Pinnacle Bank Arena, allowing fans to attend an event and enjoy the outdoor plaza.



**PROMINENT PEOPLE, NEBRASKA TIES**

Grover Cleveland Alexander, Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher · Fred Astaire, dancer and actor · Max Baer, boxer · Marlon Brando, Academy Award-winning actor · William Jennings Bryan, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Representative, Democratic Party nominee for president 1896, 1900, and 1908 ·



Warren Buffett, investor; Forbes Magazine's 2008 Richest Man in the World · Richard N. Cabela, entrepreneur, founder of Cabela's sporting store · Johnny Carson, comedian · Joba Chamberlain, Major League Baseball pitcher · Dick Cheney, 46th U.S. Vice-president



Adam DeVine, actor · Brian Duensing, Major League Baseball pitcher · Henry Fonda, Academy Award-winning actor · Bob Gibson, Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher,



St. Louis Cardinals · Alex Gordon, Major League Baseball All-Star, Gold Glove winner, 2015 World Series Champion, Kansas City Royals · Amy Heidemann, Karmin lead singer · Marg Helgenberger, actress · Peter Kiewit, contractor, investor and philanthropist · Jaime King, actress · Ted Kooser, Poet Laureate of the United States and Pulitzer Prize winner · Larry the Cable Guy, comedian · Tyronn Lue, Head Coach, 2016 NBA Champion Cleveland Cavaliers · Malcolm X, civil rights leader · Nick Nolte, actor, producer · Alexander Payne, Academy Award-winning Director · Edwin Perkins, inventor of Kool-Aid, philanthropist · Andy Roddick, tennis star, 2003 U.S. Open Champion · Gale Sayers, Football Hall of Fame running back, Chicago Bears · Hilary Swank, two-time Academy Award-winning actress · Jack Sock, 2014 Wimbledon doubles



champion · Gabrielle Union, actress · James Valentine, Maroon 5 guitarist · Tony Watson, Major League Baseball All-Star, Pittsburgh Pirates



**OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

Nebraska's largest city, Omaha and its metro-area, is less than an hour's drive from Lincoln and has a population of approximately 900,000. Omaha is home to TD Ameritrade Park, the NCAA College World Series and the world-renowned Henry Doorly Zoo.

# BRONZE FOR PAGE ON WORLD STAGE

Nebraska's Danielle Page became the first Husker basketball player to win an Olympic medal when she captured bronze as a member of the Serbian team at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Page, a 6-2 forward from Monument, Colo., earned four letters at Nebraska from 2005 through 2008. During her Husker career, Page overcame injury and adversity to help Nebraska to the 2007 and 2008 NCAA tournaments. A tremendous post defender, Page still owns Nebraska records for blocked shots in a game (9 vs. Baylor, Feb. 3, 2007) and in a season (78, 2007-08) while ranking third on Nebraska's career block list with 207.



Page averaged 10.6 points and team-highs of 6.0 rebounds, 1.6 blocks and a 30.3 minutes per game throughout the Olympics. She produced double figures in six Olympic games to help Serbia, which was ranked No. 14 in the world entering the Olympics, earn its first women's basketball Olympic medal in history.



“To be the first Husker women's basketball player to earn an Olympic medal is pretty amazing considering all the incredible girls that have come through the Nebraska program. I am just happy to continue to represent Nebraska no matter where I go.”

**Danielle Page, 2016 Olympic Bronze Medalist  
Husker Letterwinner (2005-08)**

