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Avenue Scholars Foundation Celebrates Third Avenue Scholars Class

Omaha, NE, April 25, 2011 – The Avenue Scholars Foundation will honor its third class of students at a celebration luncheon on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. at The Institute for Culinary Arts, on the Fort Omaha campus of Metropolitan Community College 32nd and Sorenson Parkway, Omaha. The event will include featured singer/songwriter Tim Halperin, former contestant on “American Idol” (and Westside HS graduate), who will speak on the topic of “Making Dreams a Reality”. There will also be remarks by several current Avenue Scholars including Jermayne Thompson, the Foundation’s first post-secondary graduate from Metropolitan Community College.

MC for the event will be Gary Marx, the President of the Center for Public Outreach in Washington D.C.

The event is open to the media.

Dr. Ken Bird, President/CEO of the Avenue Scholars Foundation said, “During year two the Avenue Scholars Foundation team continued to exceed all expectations in meeting the needs of our scholars. Helping our scholars navigate difficult and complex social, emotional and educational issues is what continues to motivate our Talent Advisors. Their “never give up” attitude and always staying positive and focused on what is best for each scholar are the keys to our success”.

“With our primary focus being to help our scholars complete a two-year vocational, technical or Associate Degree, our relationship with Metro Community College continues to grow in its importance. As a result, the Avenue Scholars Foundation staff recognizes our job is far from complete. Our focus is quickly shifting to making sure each scholar is successfully matched with an appropriate and meaningful job in the community. In the end, the success of the Avenue Scholars Foundation should and will be measured by our ability to lead our scholars to these job opportunities. We understand the challenge that stands before us and we welcome it.” Bird added, “Our May 11th luncheon marks the addition of our new class of high school scholars and another step forward in the development of the Avenue Scholars Foundation program. We couldn’t do it without the support of our Board, educational and business partners, and overall support in the community”.



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About Avenue Scholars:

The mission of Avenue Scholars Foundation is to provide an avenue of success for Omaha area students of talent and need by offering comprehensive support from high school through community college or university graduation, leading to enhanced lives and careers.

A full-time Talent Advisor serves Avenue Scholars in their respective high schools as juniors and seniors. The Talent Advisor meets with students during regularly scheduled classes dedicated to college access and success preparation. In its third year, partner high schools include Benson, Bryan, Omaha North, Omaha Northwest, Omaha South, Ralston and Millard South,. Avenue Scholars attending Metropolitan Community College also receive the support of a Talent Advisor.

Outside of the classroom, Avenue Scholars and their families receive a wide range of academic, social and financial planning services. Many of these are delivered at the Avenue Scholars Center located at 7101 Mercy Road in Omaha. Students also have additional contact time with their Talent Advisors and regular access to tutors and mentors at this location.

Avenue Scholars continue to receive highly individualized and comprehensive support throughout their post-secondary education. For those attending a community college or vocational school, the Avenue Scholars Program provides unique transitional support into the workforce or into a four-year public or private college program.

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