

August 2025

Friends & Supporters Update

We Create Moments that Matter.

Dear Friends of The Leadership Center,

As we move through the third quarter of 2025, we want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude on all that has already taken place this year. From January through August, The Leadership Center has been bustling with activity, and none of it would be possible without the support of friends like you.

Highlights from the First Six Months

By the end of June of this year, we:

- Hosted or catered meals to over 400 events
- Served 8,910 drinks at Espressions, our coffee shop.
- Welcomed over 1600 students and community members into Espressions clubs and D4LC programs.
- Hosted 40 students for two, five-day Welding Camps



Fishing Camp was a hit!

These numbers are more than statistics—they represent the lives we've touched, the skills we've helped develop, and of course, countless moments that mattered. Here is a closer look at a few highlights thus far:

Quarter 1

The year started strong with plenty of FFA LDE contests we catered or hosted, our first annual TLC Toy Show, and we welcoming AKRS Jump Start Day, where students were introduced to future career opportunities. We were then thrilled to guide students through over 62 hours of interview training through FLEET, with two participants earning acceptance into the RHOP program—a full tuition scholarship. Our team also had the opportunity to lead workshops and host a booth at the Nebraska FFA, FCCLA, and Educators Rising State Conventions.



The TLC Toy Show was a hit! Our 2026 show is February 22.

We worked with over 100 students at the Educators Rising Workshop!



Husky Art Club is a partner program with the AHS special education department to offer community and crafts at Espressions!



Quarter 2 and Quarter 3

Each year, May brings one of our favorite traditions—**COLT** (Chapter Officer Leadership Training)! Hundreds of FFA leaders from across Nebraska filled our campus, learning and growing together from the Nebraska FFA State Officers. During COLT we also welcomed **five summer interns** to help advance our mission and grow to be thriving community leaders. Our team also prepared for over **17 MAPS trainings**, keeping our classrooms, dining hall, and green spaces full of learning and laughter.

The **Lunch Bunch program** had another successful year—feeding 3,964 FREE meals to kids! It's a joy and privilege to provide nutritious meals and a safe space for students in our community. If you'd like to make a direct impact, you can help sponsor the 2026 Lunch Bunch meals by visiting tlcaurora.org/donate.

Our coffee shop welcomed **over 1300 guests** for clubs and classes this year. One of our favorites has been **Silly Storytime with Sofia**. Sofia has worked with The Leadership for over 2 years and is currently on her way to a teaching degree!

Our **Welding Camp** was a HIT! We filled two week-long camps (and started a hefty waitlist) where students welded for up to 4.5 hours/day, met with industry professionals on tours and lunches, and got to know other students with similar interests. We expect to see more camps like this in the upcoming year!

Again, these are just a FEW highlights of our past year. We invite you to join us in November for our annual Harvest Gala to celebrate these highlights and more over drinks, live music, and of course Chef John's excellent cooking. **Thank you for being a part of this journey.** Every meal served, every workshop led, and every student inspired is made possible because of our supporters. Together, we are building communities, strengthening the next generation, and of course, creating moments that matter.

Aurora lunch bunch now has a roof, more tables, and a play area at Refshauge park.



In February, students toured our mushroom farm to help advance their own school based operation.

Welding Camp was presented by by Strobel Companies

SAVE THE DATE

November 22, 2025

For our 11th annual Harvest Gala