



For Immediate Release:

March 25, 2025

Nebraska HOSA Recognizes State Leaders and Award Winners

HOSA members gathered for their annual State Leadership Conference on March 9-11, 2025 at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Over 770 students and advisers from 42 Nebraska schools attended the conference to grow their leadership skills, celebrate their accomplishments from the past year, and prepare for their future careers. Speakers at the opening session included Dr. Deborah Frison, the Deputy Commissioner at the Nebraska Department of Education, and Dr. Travis Coufal and Dr. Christine Hamilton from Nebraska Methodist College. Hasvi Patel, the Western Region Vice President of International HOSA, was the keynote speaker for the closing session. Hasvi's message focused on the International HOSA theme, "Powered by People." The 2024-2025 State Officer Team hosted the general sessions. Team members included: Maame Ayensu-Aboagye (Bellevue East), Caleb Yeh (Millard North), Devony Theone (Scottsbluff), Emma Yin (Lincoln East), Amalia Thornton (Millard West), Ashritha Chiguluri (Millard North), and Elise Cherek (Millard North).

Throughout the days of March 10 and 11, participants had the opportunity to attend over 50 hands-on breakout sessions where they heard from professionals in healthcare careers. Some of the sessions included a Mobile Diabetes Unit, an Anatomy Escape Room Challenge, Specialty Nursing in Wound and Ostomy Care, and Infection Prevention in the Care of Cancer Patients.

On Tuesday, March 11, 30 businesses and organizations hosted booths in the Health Science Expo. Students met with potential employers, college representatives, and additional HOSA partners to learn about college, career, service, and volunteer opportunities.

The on-site service project was a blood drive in partnership with the Nebraska Community Blood Bank. The drive had 38 registered donors, including 34 new donors with the Nebraska Community Blood Bank. Twenty four units were collected.

Nebraska HOSA recognized chapters that hosted blood drives and collected the most units of blood in their local communities throughout the year with the Hemoglobin Hero Award. The chapter that collected the most units of blood and received the first place Hemoglobin Hero Award was Broken Bow High School; 2nd place went to Millard West High School; 3rd place went to Skutt Catholic High School.

Leading up to and during the State Leadership Conference, students participated in HOSA Competitive Events, Recognition Events, and Academic Testing Center exams. Fifty professionals volunteered their time over March 10 and 11 to judge competitive events. Students placing in the top three in their respective event qualified to compete in the HOSA International Event Competition, which will take place in Nashville, Tennessee on June 18-21, 2025. Students placing 4th and 5th are alternates for the event.

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HOSA is an international student organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching over 300,000 members. It has a two-fold mission - to promote career opportunities in the healthcare industry and to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare to all people. HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for secondary, postsecondary, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in health science education and biomedical science programs or have interests in pursuing careers in health professions. For more information about HOSA, please visit hosa.org and nehosa.org.

2025 Nebraska HOSA SLC Results & Awards

The 2025-2026 Nebraska HOSA State Officer Team

Gary Hao, Millard West

Lucyana Munoz, Scottsbluff

Ridhvi Nayakwadi, Millard North

Joelle Peatrowsky, Pathways 2 Tomorrow

Pranavi Prakash, Millard North

Vicky Wu, Papillion LaVista

Nebraska HOSA College Scholarship

Maame Ayensu-Aboagye, Bellevue East

Elise Cherek, Millard North

Lina Dvorak, Lincoln High

Amalia Thornton, Millard West

Nebraska HOSA Advisor of the Year

Megan Stone, Grand Island Senior High

New HOSA Chapters

Beatrice High School, Advisor - Rachel Bisbee

Central City High School, Advisor - Anna Detlefsen

Dundy County Stratton, Advisor - Elisha Hinojosa

Norris School District, Advisor - Becca Pair

Westside High School, Advisor - Madison Brady

Chapter Award Program

Gold

Omaha Northwest

Silver

Ralston High School

Grand Island Senior High

Bronze

Millard West

Most Membership Award

Millard North High School

Most Membership Growth

Kearney High School

Chapter of the Year

Millard West

Outstanding Chapter Leader

Aksam Dodban, Grand Island Senior High

2025 Pin Design Contest

Max Mendez, Grand Island Senior High

State Leadership Conference Chapter Spirit Award

Dundy County Stratton Schools

Anatontage Anatomy Tournament

1st - LOVE HOSA, The Career Academy

2nd - The CRISPR Crew, Papillion LaVista

3rd - Bone Tibia - Millard South

HOSA Recognition Events

These events recognize individuals or chapters who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to service, leadership, or the HOSA organization.

Barbara James Service Award

Gold

Khang Nguyen, Millard North

Vyshnavi Perisetla, Millard North

Silver

Neida Cornejo, Ralston

Bronze

Emily Alison, Millard North

Zahraa Alison, Millard North

Mia Danielson, Ralston

Juhisahasra Rambha, Millard North
Pranav Naveenkumar, Millard North
Gowtham Sathi, Millard North
Sriarshadhaa Suriya Narayana, Millard North

American Red Cross Volunteer Service

Gold:

Ralston High School

Healthcare Issues Exam

1st - Hilary Esquivel, Millard North
2nd - Sudheesh Sriram, Millard North
3rd - Jahida Abundes, Pathways 2 Tomorrow

HOSA Happenings

Millard North
Scottsbluff
Millard West

HOSA Competitive Events - Top 5 Results

1st - 3rd placing individuals and teams have qualified to represent Nebraska at the International Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee this coming June. Fourth and 5th place individuals and teams are alternates.

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Behavioral Health	Enlow, Brylee - Gering	Hawley, Sophie - Millard West	Dvorak, Lina - Lincoln High	Desa, Rylan - Skutt Catholic	Reh, Meh - Omaha Northwest

Biomedical Debate	Naveenkumar, Pranav; Nayakwadi, Ridhvi; Patel, Pooja; Prakash, Pranavi - Millard North	Ravinuthula, Srinika; Sathi, Gowtham; Shaik, Ashmiza - Millard North	Bailey, Niko; Baydoun, Yasmin; Moo, Mu Lway; Ruiz, Julyssa - UNMC		
Biotechnology	Wu, Vicky - Papillion LaVista	Smith, Ava - Midlands	Mindrup, Frederick - Millard West	Nair, Samiksha - Millard West	Roberts, Henry - Midlands
CERT Skills	Cohee, Ava; Lara, Yazuri - P2T				
Clinical Laboratory Science	Alison, Zahraa - Millard North	Guzinski, Sonya - P2T	McDowell, Caeli - Millard West	Royster, Ebony - Omaha Northwest	Thapa, Samyam - Millard West
Clinical Specialty	Zimmerman, Evelyn (Enzo) - Omaha Northwest	Fontanez-Nieto, Alexa - Ralston			
Community Awareness	Are, Meruni; Khandavalli, Nithya; Zheng, Angela - Millard North	Bennett, KheJean; Htoo, Day Pla; Moo, Ba Blut; Paw, Toy; Roderiques, Xavier; Than, Cho Cho - Benson	Moo, Ku Sher; Paw, Htee; Rem, Bethsy - Omaha Northwest		
CPR/First Aid	Hertzler, Harriet; Salisbury, Olivia - Scottsbluff	Hertzler, Hannah; Little, Sierra - Scottsbluff	Hohnstein, Lillian; Sell, Addison - Scottsbluff	Kersenbrock, Addisyn; Nguyen, Ila - Scottsbluff	Harkins, Aurora; Tisue, Aubree - Scottsbluff
Creative Problem Solving	Adzafui, Christine; Dawson, Angel; Kuehn, Isabella - Bellevue East	Hamel-Evans, Brielle; Myers, Charlee; Quinn, Halle; Staples, Jaycee - Broken Bow	Ganti, Anuraag; Le, Anthony - Millard North	Pallamala, Sahasra; Suriya Narayanan, Sriarshadhaa - Millard North	Bruns, Brielle; Groff, Madilyn - Doniphan-Trumbull
Dental Science	Montoya, Jesus - P2T	Molina, Isabella - Omaha Northwest	Zhu, Leah - Millard West	Gulbranson, Jasper - Sidney	Zoubek, Olivia - Norris
Dental Terminology	Prakash, Pranavi - Millard North	Lacy, Hannah - Gering	Beck, Natalie - Scottsbluff	Salgado-Torres, Brianna - Scottsbluff	Borer, Hadley - South Central NE USD #5
Emergency Medical Technician	Groff, Carlee; Smith, Hyrum - Millard West	Baltz, Sarah; Schneider, Aria - Gering	Gibbons, Emily; Martin, Brody - Gering	Colburn, Chances; Hinrikus, Logan - Grand Island	Brown, Jacelyn; Hawley, Kailar - Gering
Epidemiology	Ayensu-Aboagye, Maame - Bellevue East	Vaquera Martinez, Hilario - Scottsbluff	Thoene, Devony - Scottsbluff	Ashley, Blodgett - Midlands	Zwetzig, Mikala - Scottsbluff

Extemporaneous Writing	Rinne, Klayton - Dundy County Stratton	Fontanez-Nieto, Alexa - Ralston	Johnson, Arianna - Broken Bow	Smith, Skylar - Broken Bow	Norman, Lexi-Ralston
Family Medicine Physician	Baldeh, Emma - Dundy County Stratton	Jayaraman, Samiksha - Millard North	Oma, Dia - Ralston		
Forensic Science	Corman, Keaton; Schmidt, Kaeden - South Central NE USD #5	Bennett, Amaya; Kovar, Norah - Omaha Central	Evans, Daniela; Yost, Henry - Bellevue East	Boyd, Aphia; Boyd, Rachel - Gering	McKee, Marlee; Miller, Alison - Gering
Foundations of HOSA Bowl	Baldeh, Lila; Forch, Maelee; Killough, Esmaye; Sutton, Autumn - Dundy County Stratton				
Health Career Display	Akindele, Rahmah; Nayakwadi, Saashvi - Millard North	Boinpally, Vaishu; Hoskot Ramars, Advithi - Millard North	Hawley, Sophie; Prell, Claire - Millard West	Rodriguez, Adryana; Yung, Madison - Scottsbluff	Pederson, Ozzie; Pederson, Stella - Lincoln Northwest
Health Career Photography	Zwetzig, Mikala - Scottsbluff	Guzman, Maria - Sidney	Velasquez, Angie - Ralston	Dettman, Kaydence - Central City	Ignowski, Amia - Buena Vista
Health Education	Aguilar Rodriguez, Thania; Hernandez Perez, Jennifer; Puac Chanchavac, Dina; Romero Zuniga, Judith - Grand Island				
Health Informatics	Thompson, Johnathan - Gering	Devanaboyina, Mukundha - Millard North	Thapa, Samyam - Millard West	Schwisow, Hailey - Millard West	Baumert, Kennedy - P2T
Healthy Living	Perisetla, Kaajal - Millard North	Rother, Saige - Johnson County	Ametitovi, Dorcas - Omaha Northwest	Gabriel Pintor, Elizabeth - Grand Island	Muhs, Piper - Millard West
Home Health Aide	Yahya, Mukarim - Grand Island	Thomsen, Deanna - P2T	Neujahr, Sydney - Lincoln Northwest	Kraft, Ava - Scottsbluff	Magdaleno, Illiana - Gering
HOSA Bowl*	DeWitt, Lillian; Petersen, Jaxen; Rugroden, Hannah; Villagrana, Mical - Scottsbluff	Middledorf, Mason; Munoz, Lucyana; Vaquera Martinez, Hilario; Webb, Jhett - Scottsbluff	Branecki, Jack; Hao, Gary; Krobot, Sophia; Van Deun, Ainsley - Millard West	Ganti, Anuraag; Le, Anthony; Naveenkumar, Pranav; Sathi, Gowtham -	Buchholz, Derek; Falkner, Paige; Meekins, Jade; Monroe, Aiden - Bellevue West

				Millard North	
Human Growth & Development	Nguyen, Hagen - Millard North	Sriram, Sudheesh - Millard North	Madduri, Sriyans - Millard North	Prekker, Claire - Midlands	Stevens, Niamh - Millard West
Job Seeking Skills	Smith, Molliane - Scottsbluff	Schanbacher, Allison - Ralston	Rojo, Axel - Ralston	McCloud, Jaylee - Scottsbluff	Kirimi, Abigail - Central City
Medical Assisting	Koehler, Valentina - South Central NE USD #5	Pemberton, Ariana - Omaha Northwest	Dodban, Aksam - Grand Island	Hawkins, Madison - Omaha Northwest	Rennerfeldt, Adi - P2T
Medical Innovation	Croft, Lily; Lintz, Serenity; Quintana, Rubi - Scottsbluff	Apodaca, Ayden; Petersen, Jaxen; Villagrana, Mical - Scottsbluff	Cui, Angela; Tripathi, Khushi - Millard North	Hallman, Milissa; Hays, Brianne; Hill, Tea; Sanchez, Camila - Scottsbluff	Neely, Olivia; Taylor, Erin; Tibbs, Izabelle - Broken Bow
Medical Law and Ethics	Hailu, Dawit - Papillion LaVista	Whitten, Gavin - Elkhorn South	Lickenbrock, Charlotte - Millard West	Smith, Hyrum - Millard West	Klein, Maddie - Midlands
Medical Math	Maser, Jacob - Scottsbluff	Maser, Harrison - Scottsbluff	Ray, Ryland - Gering	Knight, Rece - Gering	Maskin, Sienna - Omaha Central
Medical Reading	Vanek, Evelyn - Millard South	Phillips, Alex - DC West	Suriya Narayanan, Sriarshadhaa - Millard North	Thornton, Amalia - Millard West	Inda, Kaylie - Omaha Northwest
Medical Spelling	Put, Yoal - Omaha Central	Yaghmour, Sophia - Skutt Catholic	Chaudhari, Aastha - Sidney	O'Donnell, Barbara - Lincoln Southeast	Push, Cecilia - Omaha North
Medical Terminology	Dhanalakoti, Hiral - Millard North	Speck, Addison - Millard West	Elmahy, Logain - Grand Island	Esquivel, Hillary - Millard North	Madduri, Srihith Kasyap - Millard North
Mental Health Promotion	Aboeata, Nadia; Heser, Mary Heser; Rhyner, Reese; Taylor, Chloe - Westside	Besancon, Katie; Taylor, Cecilia - Omaha Central	Caudy, Emry; Ranjbar, Rako - Lincoln Southeast	Dejano, Sophia; Scott, Emily; Vincik, Emma - Millard West	Devanaboyina, Mukundha; Madduri, Sriyans; Nguyen, Hagen - Millard North
Nursing Assisting	McClain, Kenidee - P2T	Vazquez-Hernandez, Belinda - Gering	Headley, Emma - Scottsbluff	Reinmuth, Natalia - Gering	Soe, Eh Tha Dah Ler - Benson
Nutrition	Zheng, Angela - Millard North	Renner, Tanner - P2T	Little, Sierra - Scottsbluff	DeWitt, Lillian - Scottsbluff	Beals, Jane - Scottsbluff

Occupational Therapy	McCloskey, Addi - South Central NE USD #5	Thornton, Amaya - Millard West	Mannschreck, Hailey - Millard West	Thomsen, Deanna - P2T	Pathak, Aarohi - Millard West
Pathophysiology	Hammouda, Maha - Omaha Northwest	Yahya, Mukarim - Grand Island	Zimmerman, Blake - Bellevue East	Falkner, Paige - Bellevue West	Conley, Layna - Midlands
Patient Care Technician	Pelan, Bailey - P2T	Tial, Ngun - Omaha Northwest			
Pharmacology	Cherek, Elise - Millard North	Meekins, Jade - Bellevue West	Ho, Margaret - Millard South	Horst, Deanna - Sidney	Davis, Ian - Sidney
Pharmacy Science	Elmahy, Logain - Grand Island	Harral, Emelia - P2T	Beals, Jane - Scottsbluff	Cornejo, Neida - Ralston	Guthrie, Alana - Ralston
Phlebotomy	Shaske, James - Scottsbluff	Rinne, Klayton - Dundy County Stratton	Monteiro, Isabella - Millard North	Kaup, Skylar - P2T	Kreikemeier, Izzy - P2T
Physical Therapy	Peatrowsky, Joelle - P2T	Druckenmiller, Jeremiah - P2T	Maser, Jacob - Scottsbluff	Mazour, Amelia - Sidney	Maser, Harrison - Scottsbluff
Prepared Speaking	Bansal, Nandini - Millard North	Jones, Katelyn - Grand Island	Hao, Gary - Millard West	Hobson, Kennedy - Sidney	Jayaraman, Swikriti - Millard North
Public Health	Aguilar, Elijah; Bruner, Josiah; Middledorf, Mason - Scottsbluff				
Public Service Announcement	Meyer, Campbell; Schneider, Hallie; Schneider, Hannah; Weingart, Reese; Wylie, Lillionya - Scottsbluff	Bhujel, Bandana; Gurung, Asmina; Mareng, Achol; McDougale, Kennedy; Paw, Eh Ler - Benson	Chapin, Maren; Marten, Janae; Staples, Gaby - Broken Bow		
Researched Persuasive Writing & Speaking	Alison, Emily - Millard North	Venkatesh, Mythili - Millard North	Lee, Dagen - Sidney	Das, Dhriti - Millard North	Koenig, Kaylin - Millard West
Research Poster	Moo, Sha - TCA	Bashtovoi, Emily - Sidney	Rensch, Haley - Westside	Bowyer, Iliana - Ralston	Willson, Megumi - Sidney
Respiratory Therapy	Mendez, Max - Grand Island	Hudson, Harper - Millard West	Stallsworth, Jonas - Midlands	Moore, Jayla - Gering	Hickey, Siril - P2T
Sports Medicine	Sykes, Rex - Midlands	DeWitt, Lillian - Scottsbluff	Wondercheck, Jackson - Norris	May, Peyton - Scottsbluff	Webb, Jhett - Scottsbluff
Veterinary Science	Saucedo, Adriana - Millard West	Berghorst, Alex - Broken Bow	Ramsey, Jude - Millard North	Maas, Taylyn - P2T	Shea, Keelyn - Broken Bow

World Health & Disparities in Healthcare	Williams, Marissa - Omaha North	Engle, Layne - Millard West	Martinez-Shultz, Kanella - Westside	Mindrup, Frederick - Millard West	Bosworth, Mattieson - Bellevue East
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* The Nebraska Hospital Association awards each of the members of the 1st place HOSA Bowl Team with a \$500 scholarship.

National Geographic Learning - Academic Testing Center tests

Members can take these academic tests as an additional competition opportunity at the State Leadership Conference. The Top 3 results are below.

ATC Event	1st	2nd	3rd
ATC - AAFP Family Medicine Career Test	Tial, Ngun - Omaha Northwest	Abundes, Jahida - Pathways 2 Tomorrow	Dejano, Sophia - Millard West
ATC-Allied Health Statistics	Elmahy, Logain - Grand Island	Alison, Emily - Millard North	Fabrikant, Jillian - Millard West
ATC-Anatomy & Physiology	Speck, Addison - Millard West	Yahya, Mukarim - Grand Island	Smith, Hyrum - Millard West
ATC-Biochemistry	Khobare, Aarya - Millard North	Carlson, Jacob - Omaha Central	Maser, Jacob - Scottsbluff
ATC-Biology	Dhanalakoti, Hiral - Millard North	Ganti, Anuraag - Millard North	Wondercheck, Jackson - Norris
ATC-Career Development	Nguyen, Hagen - Millard North	Croft, Lily - Scottsbluff	Madduri, Sriyans - Millard North
ATC-Environmental Health	Ramsey, Jude - Millard North	Thornton, Amaila - Millard North	Jayaraman, Samiksha - Millard North
ATC-General Chemistry	Maskin, Sienna - Omaha Central	Mindrup, Frederick - Millard West	Sriram, Sudheesh - Millard North
ATC-Human Heredity	Nair, Samiksha - Millard West	Tian, Kelly - Millard West	Kinze, Stella - Millard West
ATC-Leadership	Speck, Addison - Millard West	Naveenkumar, Pranav - Millard North	Mendez, Max - Grand Island
ATC-Math for Health Professionals	Hao, Gary - Millard West	Nayakwadi, Ridhvi - Millard North	Mindrup, Frederick - Millard West
ATC-Microbiology	Wilson, Avery - Skutt Catholic	Kreikemeier, Cooper - Pathways 2 Tomorrow	Molina, Isabella - Omaha Northwest

ATC-Occupational Health & Safety	Thornton, Amaila - Millard West	Hill, Tea - Scottsbluff	Boinpally, Vaishu - Millard North
ATC-Organic Chemistry	Druckenmiller, Jeremiah - Pathways 2 Tomorrow	Saldana, Karla - Pathways 2 Tomorrow	Meyer, Dane - Pathways 2 Tomorrow
ATC-Physics College	Cherek, Elise - Millard North	Onate, Noel - Sidney	Hao, Gary - Millard West