



# PARTNERSHIP 4 KIDS

## STUDENT SUCCESS REPORT

#TO AND THROUGH COLLEGE

## P4K support empowers UNO student

Despite a “whirlwind” first two years in college, Jenny, a P4K student since 5th grade, is on the path to graduate, feeling excited and passionate about her future.

A graduate of Central High School, Jenny enrolled at UNO in 2016 planning to be a doctor. She bounced around specialties from surgery to family physician and nursing, but she struggled to find the right fit.

By her sophomore year, Jenny’s grades were starting to falter. Her classes were challenging, but most of all, life at home was stressful. Her dad left and she watched her mother juggle medical bills, her health, and their family. Jenny was also helping care for her grandpa who needed transportation to treatments for bone marrow cancer. In the middle of all this, Jenny also went through the stress of moving and living out of boxes for a while.

“With my home problems and having to take a ton of hard classes when I was pre-med, it felt like trying to hold water in my hands, but it kept falling through,” Jenny said.

She’d started college with a scholarship from P4K, but when her grades fell, she lost the scholarship for a semester. Despite not meeting the requirements anymore, Jenny said she knew P4K wasn’t giving up on her as she continued to receive support and help navigating her way out of academic probation.

While she worked hard to pay for school out-of-pocket, Jenny also worked to bring her grades back up. In need of an easy A and another credit hour, Jenny tossed a social work class onto her schedule, but she gained much more than a grade boost.

“Social work is so important, and

I can help in so many ways with it,” Jenny said. “I always knew I wanted to help people as a kid, so that’s why I went through the medical phase because that seemed like the obvious path. But I realized I want more interaction with the people I help and to get to know them.”

P4K exposes students to other organizations, businesses, and more during the program. While in college, Jenny discovered Inclusive Communities, an Omaha nonprofit, that impacted Jenny discovering her passion for social work.

“They do three camps a year where we go stay for a few days to help students learn about social issues and work through issues,” Jenny said. “It’s so cool to see the transition they go through during that camp and it’s a big part of why I want to be a social worker.”

Jenny is grateful to Inclusive Communities, her social work professor, her mother, and her program coordinator at P4K for the help and support she’s received throughout school and personal hardships.

Since that tough semester and leaving pre-med to major in social work, Jenny got a 4.0 last semester and was on the Dean’s List for the first time. She’s also back on the P4K scholarship and is set to graduate college in fall 2020.

“I think I really needed to hit rock bottom to realize what I wanted to do,” Jenny said. “It sucks, but I really needed it. It taught me that I didn’t want to be in the medical field. Just because I needed that extra credit hour, I ended up finding my passion. If I didn’t hit rock bottom, I wouldn’t have known.”

Jenny is excited to have found her



JENNY RIVERA  
UNO student | P4K graduate

career path and is eager to complete her bachelor’s degree so she can jump into pursuing a master’s degree.

“Having this passion is keeping me going and now I even want to take summer classes and stay busy. I really want it, so it’s worth it,” Jenny said.

Jenny’s experience taught her to manage her time well. She plans her days carefully and stays on campus all day to finish schoolwork. Studying with her sister, a fellow UNO student, has helped hold her accountable. And, P4K has helped support and assist Jenny whenever she needed it.

“P4K has been constantly encouraging me and telling me it’s going to be OK and that they’re always still there to help,” Jenny said. “I haven’t had a lot of stability in my life and P4K gave me that. Also, Deanne [at P4K] is super supportive all the time and she always has the answers to my problem. Creating a connection and bond with a mentor is a big thing because of all the help and support it constantly gives you.”

“  
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# HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2019



# P4K NEWS AND UPDATES



There's exciting updates to our elementary school programming and we are calling all volunteers!

- **Book Buddy** is now offered pre-k through 3rd grade with more mentor time throughout the year.
- **Goal Buddies** now work with a group of 3-4 students in the classroom with more mentoring time throughout the year. The students will be excited to get to know you and build a relationship with you during each visit!

To learn more about being a Book Buddy or Goal Buddy, visit [p4k.org](http://p4k.org) or contact **Deb Shaw**, volunteer recruitment supervisor at [dshaw@p4k.org](mailto:dshaw@p4k.org) or 402-557-6380.



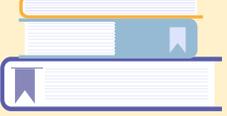
Interested in sponsoring and/or attending upcoming events like our **Hops & Grapes Fall Festival** and our 30th anniversary gala? Visit [p4k.org/events](http://p4k.org/events) or contact **Cheryl Murray** at [cmurray@p4k.org](mailto:cmurray@p4k.org) or (402) 930-3082 to learn more.



This summer we'll send off **46 high school graduates** to college with their own college basket (a laundry basket filled with necessities)! **Thank you** to our generous donors for helping these students start college on the right foot with this meaningful gift. Check out photos on our Facebook page!

**66**  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

**46**  
START COLLEGE IN THE FALL



**3.05**  
AVERAGE GPA

**\$298,000**  
TOTAL AWARDED IN P4K SCHOLARSHIPS 2019-20 ACADMIC YEAR



**21**  
COLLEGE GRADUATES

**8** associate's degrees 

**13** bachelor's degrees

**DEGREES ATTAINED:** 

- Public Health
- Social Work
- Engineering
- Applied Math
- Exercise Science
- Political Science
- Business
- Marketing 
- Education
- Culinary Arts
- and more!

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

“ We're excited to kick off this school year with an improved experience for all participants in our elementary program. In partnership with OPS and in effort to address the needs of today's students, we have increased our focus on early literacy, secured more time for mentoring, and expanded our curriculum to create a smooth transition into our middle and high school programs. The new program provides a strong and cohesive pathway for our students to feed from one P4K program to another in the schools we serve. ”



**KRIS MORGAN**  
Elementary Program Manager