

# 2023 GRADUATION HONORS CELEBRATION

— HIGH SCHOOL & POSTSECONDARY —



THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

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Metropolitan Community College, Fort Omaha  
3000 Fort Street | Omaha, Nebraska | 68111

# Partnership 4 Kids Graduation Celebration 2023

## Welcome Reception

Emcees | Dr. Monique Cribbs, Learning and Development Consultant, Common Spirit Health & Tim Clark, Manager of Community Relations, Metropolitan Community College

Welcome Message | Melitta Wilson, Principal of Minne Lusa Elementary School and P4K Alumna & Susan Christopherson, Chief Academic Officer, Omaha Public Schools

## Opening Address

High School Graduates | Arriannah Garnier, Omaha North High School & Daniel Cook, Omaha Central High School

P4K President & CEO | Deb Denbeck

Postsecondary Graduate | Aahlishiya Figures, University of Nebraska-Omaha (2023)

## Recognition of Graduates

Linda Sanabria, High School Program Manager & Molly Verble, Program Director

## Scholarship Awards Presentation

**Zaiid Liwaru Memorial Annual Scholarship**  
*presented by The Liwaru Family*

**Founder's Endowed Scholarship**  
*presented by Dr. Gail Walling Yanney, P4K Founder*

**Anne Nelson Memorial Scholarship**  
*presented by Dr. Gail Walling Yanney, P4K Founder*

**Julie Hefflinger Endowed Scholarship**  
*presented by Julie Hefflinger, Former P4K President*

**Bruce Simon Memorial Annual Scholarship**  
*presented by Julie Hefflinger, Former P4K President*

**David Jacobson Memorial Annual Scholarship**  
*presented by Dr. Juan Casas, P4K Board Member*

**Keith, Margareth, & Sandra Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship**  
*presented by Dr. Juan Casas, P4K Board Member*

**College Graduate Achievement Award**  
*presented by Janelle Butler, College Retention Specialist*

## Closing Address

High School Graduate | Xiomara Avila Perez, Omaha South High School

# Partnership 4 Kids

## Class of 2023 Medical School Graduates

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*"Not only did P4K help me to stay on track academically, but it helped me a great deal socially through peer and mentor support, and long-lasting friendships."*

*This year, we are thrilled to recognize not one but two of our 2023 postsecondary graduates for earning their medical doctorate degrees! Please join us in congratulating IK and Terry for this remarkable achievement!*

### IKPONMWOSA (IK) IGBINIGIE

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER (UNMC)  
*Doctor of Medicine, Class of 2023*

In the short-term, IK would like to work as a cardiologist. However, one of his long-term goals is to move back to Nigeria where he hopes to open a hospital or health clinic. This summer, IK will begin his residency at Case Western University Hospitals, Cleveland Medical Center for Internal Medicine. IK is currently serving as a group mentor for P4K tenth grade students attending North High School.

### TERRY HENRY

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE | NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
*Doctor of Medicine, Class of 2023*

This summer, Terry will begin his residency at Virginia Commonwealth University Health Sciences for Ophthalmology. Terry hopes to match into an American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship and work in Academia, teaching residents, fellows, and organized medicine. He aspires to be a Chair of a fellowship or residency program and to remain involved in national ophthalmology organizations.



*"Believe me when I say that Partnership 4 Kids is my top of the list for organizations to give back to!"*

# Partnership 4 Kids

## Class of 2023 Scholarship Recipients

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### Zaid Liwaru Memorial Annual Scholarship

*presented by The Liwaru Family*

#### KOBE MCPHAULL

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Kobe plans to attend Texas A&M and major in Administration of Justice. He first started Partnership 4 Kids at Belvedere Elementary School, continuing on to McMillan Middle School, and then North. A highlight of his year has been getting a scholarship that covers the majority of the cost to go out of state for college, as that is something he always wanted and was skeptical of the possibility. He has worked really hard and is proud of having the opportunity to attend his dream school.

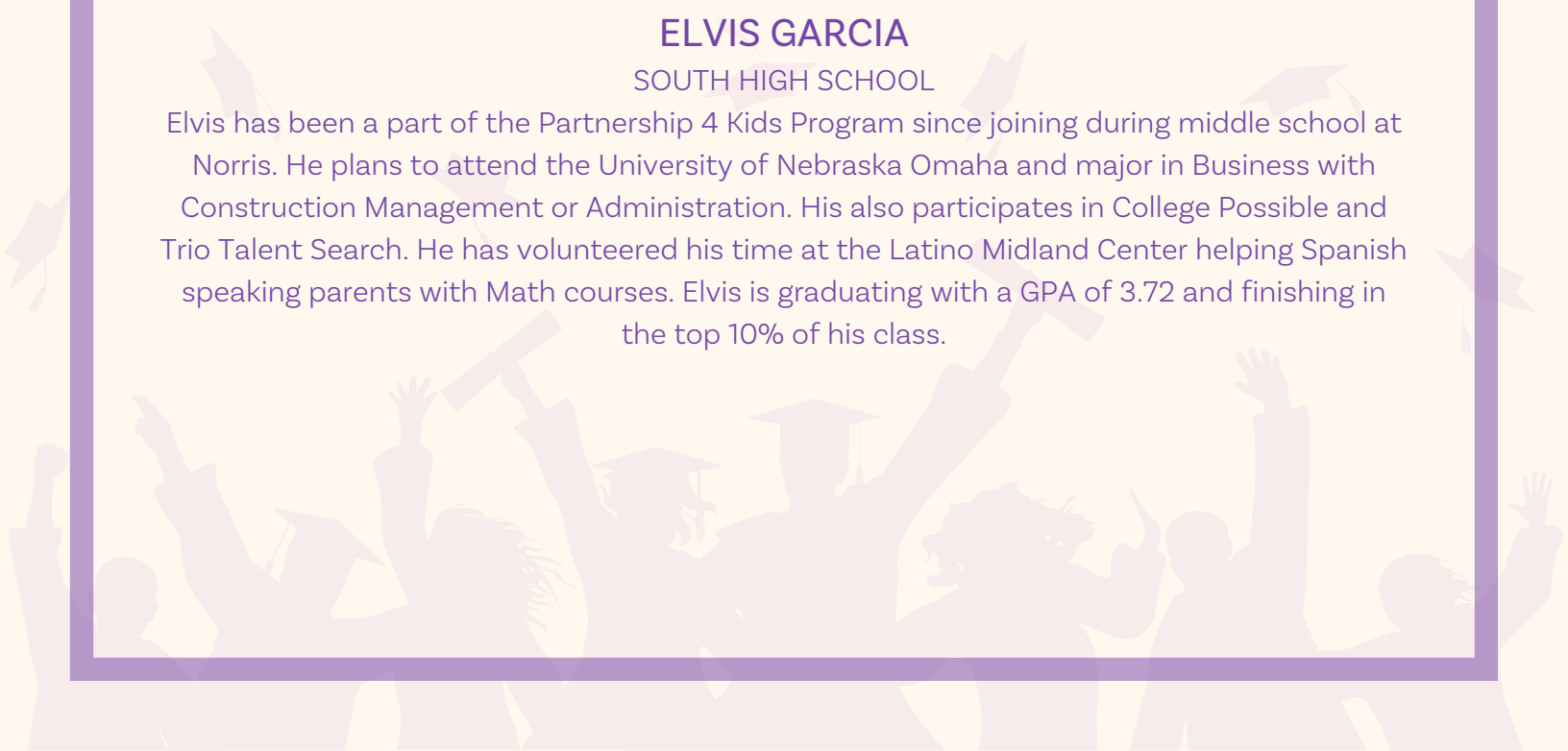
### Founder's Endowed Scholarship

*presented by Dr. Gail Walling Yanney*

#### ELVIS GARCIA

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Elvis has been a part of the Partnership 4 Kids Program since joining during middle school at Norris. He plans to attend the University of Nebraska Omaha and major in Business with Construction Management or Administration. He also participates in College Possible and Trio Talent Search. He has volunteered his time at the Latino Midland Center helping Spanish speaking parents with Math courses. Elvis is graduating with a GPA of 3.72 and finishing in the top 10% of his class.



# Partnership 4 Kids

## Class of 2023 Scholarship Recipients

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### Anne Nelson Memorial Scholarship

*presented by Dr. Gail Walling Yanney*

#### XIOMARA AVILA - PEREZ

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Xiomara first joined Partnership 4 Kids at Marris Middle School. She plans to attend the University of Nebraska Lincoln and major in pre-medicine to pursue a career in Anesthesiology. Xiomara is involved in National Honor Society, Packer Partners, is a Student Ambassador for South and Nebraska College Preparatory Academy. She is graduating with a 4.4 GPA and finishing in the top 5% of her class. Xiomara is also an Interpreter at Metropolitan Community College and is going to be certified soon. She is proud to have made honor roll all four years of high school.

### Julie Hefflinger Endowed Scholarship

*presented by Julie Hefflinger*

#### KATIE VALENCIA - HERNANDEZ

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Katie has been a part of the Partnership 4 Kids Program since joining the program at Marris Middle School. She plans to attend the University of Nebraska Omaha this Fall. She plans to major in Business Administration and minor in Marketing. Katie is graduating with a 4.4 GPA and finishing in the top 5% of her senior class. She is building her entrepreneur skills through her side business called Katie's Creations.



# Partnership 4 Kids

## Class of 2023 Scholarship Recipients

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### Bruce Simon Memorial Annual Scholarship

*presented by Julie Hefflinger*

#### JUANA LOPEZ-LOPEZ

OMAHA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Juana has maintained a GPA of a 3.7 throughout high school. She has been an active member of the Central soccer team and plans to play at College of St. Mary next year while pursuing a nursing degree. While juggling school and soccer, Juana also works part-time at Completely Kids at Field Club Elementary School. Juana first participated in P4K at Field Club Elementary, before continuing at Norris Middle School and Central High School.

### David Jacobson Memorial Annual Scholarship

*presented by Dr. Juan Casas*

#### SHAWANDA SMITH

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

Shawanda attended Belvedere Elementary School where she was first introduced to P4K. She then joined the program at McMillan Middle School before continuing at Northwest. She plans to attend Metropolitan Community College to begin coursework in studies to prepare her for her long term goal of a career in law or social work. She has been very active on the prom committee at her school, enjoys volunteering at the Humane Society, and balances a job in which she works long hours.

# Partnership 4 Kids

## Class of 2023 Scholarship Recipients

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### Keith, Margareth & Sandra Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship *presented by Dr. Juan Casas*

#### HUDA RAGE

BENSON HIGH SCHOOL

Huda plans to attend the University of Nebraska Omaha and major in Business Finance. She joined the Partnership 4 Kids program while in middle school at Lewis and Clark. A highlight of her year has been being able to get more involved in her school community by participating in the operations at her school store. She enjoys this opportunity to develop and build her skills before starting the next exciting chapter in her life.

#### LA'ASZJA WILLIAMSON

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

La'Aszja plans to attend the University of Nebraska Lincoln to major in architecture. Her P4K journey began in Middle School at Monroe. She is currently an active drummer in the marching band at school and is also participating in Upward Bound. She enjoys crocheting and posting her artwork on her Instagram page. Although she has many other obligations, La'Aszja never failed to communicate or participate in P4K meetings.



# Partnership 4 Kids

## Class of 2023 High School Graduates

### **Benson High School**

Ayiana Woodman  
Cree Mar Po Nyaw  
Eh Ka Paw Htoo  
Huda Rage  
Jaela King  
Ja'Shon Westbrook  
Joshua Harvey  
Kamrien King  
Nicole Avery

### **Central High School**

Adna Abdi  
Alexa Camacho  
Carlos German  
Daniel Cook  
Dev Biswa  
Farouk Yaseen  
Gustavo Portillo  
Jamison Kemp  
Jennifer (Jenny) Cruz-Garcia  
Juana Lopez-Lopez  
Kortney Daggett  
Laron Fulton Jr.  
Lesli Ramirez Reyna  
Maxim Victorino-Bernal  
Miguel Luna-Hernandez  
Miranda Palacios Avila  
Noelia Solis-Mendez  
Reneque Brown  
Shayden Gotto  
Tavionna Sullivan

### **North High School**

Alonzo Hutt  
Amara Collier  
Amber Young

### **North High School (cont.)**

Arianna Hill  
Arriannah Garnier  
Jamiyah Williams  
Jasmine Bogard  
Jayla Cannon  
Keoni Anding  
Kobe McPhaul  
Lillian Hudson  
Marlow Saravia  
Nyah Partridge-Butler  
Sabrina Sagitteh  
Samantha Mejia-Roa  
Selena Merino  
Ty'Aire Foster  
Tyteanna Belvin  
Xavier Lopez Guzman

### **Northwest High School**

Alivia Wolf  
Ava Meyer  
Avelina Lopez  
Eh Ku Say  
Jonathan Encinas-Garcia  
La'Aszja Williamson  
LaMari Walker  
Sara Ocampo\*  
Shania Orozco  
Shawanda Smith  
Tylan Wray

### **South High School**

Abigail Ruiz  
Adriana Gomez-Guerrero  
Alan Pacheco  
Alex Marquez  
Angel Ramos Vazquez

### **South High School (cont.)**

Angel Anguiano-Bachez  
Armando Ruiz  
Ashlee Patino  
Ashley Martinez  
Ashley Guatemala  
Cesar Estrada-Escalera  
Christian Rodriguez  
Diana Lopez Padilla\*  
Elvis Garcia Aguilar  
Fatima Ibrahim  
Genesis Rosas Del Bosque  
Glenn Walker Jr.\*  
Javier Jimenez  
Jessica Juan-Lopez  
Johana Rodriguez  
Joshua Garcia  
Katie Valencia-Hernandez  
Layla Carrillo  
Lisset Neri  
Luis Torres-Rangel  
Maria Rodriguez  
Marlene Cortez  
Mia Silva-Montalvo  
Michael Trujillo  
Mindy Orozco  
Omar Oliveros  
Pablo Torres  
Ruth Rauda  
Sherlyn Silva  
Xiomara Avila Perez  
Yuzemi Esparza Martinez

\*Denotes a student who attended a non-target school

**95**  
**High School Graduates**



# Partnership 4 Kids

## Class of 2023 Postsecondary Graduates

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### **University of Nebraska-Omaha**

Ahlishiya Figures  
Angela Mendoza-Alejandro  
Cayden Cribbs  
Hser Tha Kue  
Jonathan Rodriguez-Rosas  
KayRay Jue  
Mexis Pano-Gallardo  
Niyonkuru Fulgence  
Stephanie Degante-Hernandez

### **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Edgar Roman  
Mario Ballinas

### **University of Nebraska Medical Center**

Ikponmwosa (IK) Igbinigie

### **College of Saint Mary**

Shacty Alvarez-Hurtado  
Elizabeth Mejia-Narciso

### **Iowa Central Community College**

Nyadhol Thichiot

### **Metropolitan Community College**

Nautika Sanders  
Cristian Morales

### **Southeast Community College**

Jared Ramirez

### **Kansas City Art Institute**

Jahmai Brown

### **Grambling State University**

Diamond Cook

### **Northwest Missouri State**

Christina Short

### **Meharry Medical College**

Terry Henry

### **Bellevue University**

Alexan Short

# 23

Postsecondary Graduates

# Partnership 4 Kids

## Acknowledgements

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*A Special P4K Thank You to:*



**METROPOLITAN**  
Community College

Omaha Public Schools

Kitt Wilhelm, P4K Staff Member

Communications Coordinator | Event Photographer

The family, friends, teachers, mentors,  
Partnership 4 Kids staff, and champions who  
supported these remarkable students on their journey.

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Partnership 4 Kids programming is offered at the following  
Omaha Public Schools and postsecondary institutions:

### Elementary Programming

Field Club | Fontenelle | Franklin | Gifford Park | Minne Lusa | Sherman

### Middle School Programming

Lewis & Clark | McMillan | Monroe | Norris | RM Marrs Magnet

### High School Programming

Benson | Central | North | Northwest | South

### Postsecondary Programming

Universities of Nebraska -Omaha, -Lincoln, -Kearney | College of Saint Mary  
Metropolitan Community College | Wayne State College | Bellevue University  
... and more!

# Partnership 4 Kids

## What comes next?

### Postsecondary

The P4K program will prepare your student to make a decision about a career path that aligns with their natural strengths and will provide them with a family-supporting income. Postsecondary students are eligible to receive renewable scholarships and wrap-around services.

#### Postsecondary Options Include:

2-Year College  
4-Year College

Certificate or  
Trades Program

Apprenticeships  
Military Service

## ¿Que viene despues?

### Postsecundario

El programa P4K preparará a su estudiante para tomar una decisión sobre una carrera profesional que se alinee con sus fortalezas naturales y les proporcione un ingreso familiar. Los estudiantes postsecundarios son elegibles para recibir becas renovables y servicios integrales.

#### Las Opciones Postsecundarias Incluyen:

Universidad de 2 Años  
Universidad de 4 Años

Aprendizajes  
Servicio Militar

Programa de  
Certificados y Oficios

*"The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change."*

- Maya Angelou

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## P4K Board of Directors

Dr. Ward Chambers, Chairman of the Board\*

Mr. Thompson H. Rogers\*

Dr. Juan Casas

Dr. Monique Cribbs

Ms. Mary Ann Holland

Mr. Curtis Johnson

Ms. Melissa Marvin\*

Ms. Meaghan Gandy

Ms. Carol Russell

Ms. Nicole Leathers

Mr. Bradley D. Pfeifer

Senator Tony Vargas

Mr. Stephen Wade\*

Mr. Thomas Warren\*

Dr. Gail Walling Yanney | Founder

Mr. Michael B. Yanney | Founder Emeritus

*\*Executive Committee*

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*To establish a scholarship in honor of an individual, family, or company,  
please contact [ddenbeck@p4k.org](mailto:ddenbeck@p4k.org) or [cmurray@p4k.org](mailto:cmurray@p4k.org).*

p4k.org | 402-930-3000 | 1004 Farnam Street, Suite 200 | Omaha, Nebraska | 68102

