



Wall Street Scholars of Nebraska

2026 Annual Report



Program Update

To Alumni, Supporters, and Friends of WSSN,

I am excited to share WSSN's inaugural annual report. We feel this initiative will serve as a proper way of formally updating all involved with our group on an annual basis, while also allowing us to better evaluate progress towards our goal of establishing a widespread network of Huskers in finance across the United States.

The 2025-26 school year will be looked back on as a pivotal moment in the history of WSSN's growth. As a result of our continued intentional approach to growing awareness on UNL campus of opportunities in investment banking and alternative investments, WSSN received 138 applications in the fall semester, of which under 20% were accepted. The result of this sustained effort to attract the College of Business's most ambitious finance majors was our highest quality and most diverse freshman class to date. WSSN was recognized at the annual Student Impact Awards, being awarded "Outstanding Commitment to Recruitment", an honor given to the student organization at UNL with the most impressive member recruitment and retention program.

This past school year also saw great improvements in the two overarching resources we provide our members, being advanced curriculum and industry connections. Freshmen were challenged with the most rigorous coursework our first-year members have ever been offered. The first half of the spring semester entailed weekly quizzes that led to a comprehensive midterm test. Focus shifted to practical application in late March and April, as students participated in modeling workshops and a stock pitch competition. Entering the summer, they have the framework to position themselves for a successful recruitment process this coming winter.

Outside of the classroom, WSSN was fortunate to make its second annual networking trek to New York City in January 2026, as well as its inaugural trip to Chicago in October 2025. Through a combined 18 visits to leading asset managers, investment banks, private equity & credit investors, and public equity & credit investors, sophomore members built relationships that opened doors to new opportunities and offered insight on how to succeed in competitive recruitment processes.

Looking forward, I could not be more excited about the future of our organization. Our mission of providing students with advanced curriculum and industry-specific training remains the same, but the resources, knowledge and relationships at our disposal only continue to grow. This, in combination with the ever-increasing aptitude and leadership potential of underclassmen members, leaves me confident that WSSN's best days are far from the present.

Sincerely,

Kyler Evans
WSSN President
kevans18@huskers.unl.edu



Group Overview

Wall Street Scholars of Nebraska (“WSSN”) is a registered student organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that focuses on preparing its members for careers in investment banking, alternative investments, and other highly coveted fields within the financial industry.

WSSN aims to provide ambitious students at the Nebraska College of Business with the necessary resources and guidance to successfully pursue opportunities that have traditionally been out of reach from a Midwest state school through its...

Advanced Curriculum

WSSN offers its underclassman members the opportunity to participate in a weekly class led by the VP of Curriculum. Students gain early exposure to advanced technical concepts not covered in university coursework until 400 level classes and develop an in-depth understanding of the recruitment and interview process dynamics that are specific to WSSN’s focus career fields.

Upperclassman Mentorship

The group boasts a “pay it forward” culture where upperclassmen consistently go above and beyond to provide younger members with the same guidance and insight that was given to them during their underclassman years.

Alumni Network

WSSN’s long-term vision is to develop an expansive network of alumni who stay involved with the group through building relationships with active members and offering connections that have potential to lead to internship and full-time opportunities. At present day, this network is rapidly expanding, as WSSN’s program continues to place its members in highly coveted positions located in financial hubs across the U.S..

By the Numbers



31

Median ACT Score



3.98

Median Cumulative GPA



100%

*Freshman Summer
Internship Placement Rate*

Statistics from WSSN’s 2025-26 Analyst Class



Curriculum

Analysts (freshman members) spent their first year at college gaining early exposure to technical concepts tested in investment banking and alternative investment interviews.

The year culminated with a stock pitch contest where Analysts were split into teams of four and tasked with developing an investment thesis on a public equity. Teams had three weeks to prepare a pitch that would provide an audience with a comprehensive understanding of the opportunity, including a breakdown of the business and industry, intrinsic and relative valuation, and analysis of potential risk factors.

Teams had 10 minutes to present their pitch to the rest of the group, followed by five minutes of Q&A with upperclassmen. The project required Analysts to effectively synthesize all their learnings from the previous two semesters and clearly articulate themselves to a knowledgeable audience.

What Our Analysts Say

Julia Perju (Omaha, NE) – *“Curriculum class with WSSN has elevated my college experience. Surrounded by a community of driven peers, I have dived into hands-on modeling and valuation work while also building networking and soft skills needed to succeed in the future.”*

Alexandria Tan (Overland Park, KS) – *“Curriculum class allowed me to gain access to finance concepts well before I had exposure in any of my classes, which helped solidify my interest in finance early into my college experience.”*

Aedan Underwood (Omaha, NE) – *“WSSN has opened doors I had no idea even existed coming into college. Everyone wants the best for those around them and is bought in to helping each other succeed and obtain a career in investment banking or alternative investments.”*



20% Acceptance Rate

For Analyst Applicants in the 2025-26 School Year



Networking Treks

Associates (sophomore members) had the opportunity to attend networking treks in two of the U.S.'s largest financial hubs – Chicago and New York City. Those in attendance visited a combined 18 different firms and had the chance to speak with bankers and investment professionals, both junior and senior, and recruiters, offering insight on recruitment processes and allowing them to form personal connections during dedicated networking periods and Q&A sessions.

Chicago



New York City



Thank You!

To Matt and Natasha Plooster and Bridgepoint Investment Banking for generously sponsoring these trips. WSSN could not be more appreciative of Bridgepoint consistently choosing to give back to our group and invest in the future of finance in Nebraska.





WSSN in Competition



Global Case Competition

First Place

Senior Christian Thomas and juniors Will Blatchford, Tyler Evans and Miles Mirth placed first in UNL's Global Case Competition in March 2026. The case required teams to develop a plan to help a global healthcare system integrate AI across its international operations. The competition was organized by the International Business Department at the Nebraska College of Business, with cash prizes generously sponsored by alumni Kris ('77) and Laurel ('78) Fitzgerald.

Bridgepoint University Case Competition

Third Place

Sophomores Aiden Benda and Jack Parr and freshmen Will Callahan and Aedan Underwood placed third at the inaugural Bridgepoint University Case Competition in April 2026. Teams were tasked with providing a recommendation to a fictitious Midwest services company on their next stage of growth. WSSN's team was one of three finalists invited to the Omaha office to deliver their presentation to Bridgepoint leadership.



ACG Minnesota Cup

Fourth Place

Sophomores Aiden Benda, Mason Ley, Jacob Page and Jack Parr placed fourth in the ACG Minnesota Cup – an undergraduate case contest organized by ACG's Minnesota chapter. Teams were tasked with advising a fictitious quantum computing company and recommending one of three strategies: Build, Acquire, or Partner. The group traveled to Minneapolis to compete against 26 teams from across the Midwest and present before senior bankers from local offices.



2026 Executive Board



Kyler Evans

President

Kyler joined WSSN in the fall of 2023 and is a rising senior pursuing a BSBA in finance. This summer, Kyler will be joining Moelis & Co.'s Houston office as an Investment Banking Summer Analyst. He enjoys reading, exercising and live entertainment in his free time and is looking forward to continuing to help shape the group's future direction.



Brandy Bode

Vice President

Brandy joined WSSN in the spring of 2025 and is a rising senior pursuing a BSBA in finance. This summer, Brandy will be joining Capstone Partners' Denver office as an Investment Banking Summer Analyst. She enjoys training for marathons and exploring national parks and is excited to continue serving as a mentor to underclassmen.



Will Blatchford

VP of Curriculum

Will joined WSSN in the fall of 2023 and is a rising senior pursuing a BSBA in finance and economics. This summer, Will will be joining Solomon Partners' Chicago office as an Investment Banking Summer Analyst. In his free time, Will enjoys discovering new films and being outdoors. He's excited to continue teaching the group's curriculum class.



Luke Dickerson

VP of Recruitment

Luke joined WSSN in the spring of 2025 and is a rising junior pursuing a BSBA in finance. This summer, Luke will be joining DalFort Capital Partners' Dallas office as a Summer Analyst. He likes working out, listening to music, and playing golf in his free time and is looking forward to recruiting the next generation of finance professionals at UNL.



Addyson Topping

VP of Marketing

Addyson joined WSSN in the spring of 2025 and is a rising junior pursuing a BSBA in finance and accounting. This summer, Addyson will be joining K1 Investment Management's Los Angeles office as a Summer Analyst. She enjoys hiking and traveling in her free time and is excited to continue increasing activity on WSSN's social platforms.



Full-Time Placements



Matt Ligeski

“Joining WSSN changed the trajectory of my college career. The members invested real time in my growth, walking me through technicals, refining my resume, and helping me connect with people in the industry. That support was some of the largest help I had in landing my investment banking internship, and I am grateful for every relationship I built along the way.”



Cooper Taylor

“Even before joining WSSN, members invested time in me, helping me prepare for recruiting and supporting me as I landed my IB internship. After joining, I had the chance to give back to younger students while learning from others during full-time recruiting. I am extremely grateful for the guidance and support WSSN provided throughout my college career.”



Christian Thomas

“WSSN has been one of the most impactful experiences of college. The tight-knit and collaborative community is one that enables all students to succeed. I was fortunate to be part of the group while it underwent a meaningful growth period and am excited to see its growth and improvement after I am gone. I look forward to staying involved as an alum!”





Junior Summer Internship Placements



Will Blatchford



Brandy Bode



Jude Dunwoody



Kyler Evans



Alec Franksman



Sam Lockhart



Abreham Stutzman



Jack Thiele



Jack Welch



Miles Wirth





All Members

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