Meet Ms. Hixson and Mr. Lied

Ms. Christina M. Hixson graduated from high school in Clarinda, Iowa, borrowed money from her uncle and moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend business school. After seven months, she went to work for Mr. Ernst F. Lied, a car dealership owner in Omaha, and in 1960, she joined Mr. Lied in Las Vegas as his assistant. After Mr. Lied’s death in 1980, Ms. Hixson became the sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust, and turned the Lied Foundation Trust into one of the largest foundations in the state of Nevada at that time. Ms. Hixson has a special understanding of young people, who, like her, came from a challenging family background and are willing to work hard. When Ms. Hixson first started her career, she believed “if you work hard and stayed on the job, you could make it. . . Today, you need education first, then you have to work hard to make it. I don’t really give gifts, but I do offer opportunities.”

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Meet Ms. Hixson and Mr. Lied Continued

Mr. Ernst F. Lied was born in Columbus, Ohio, graduated high school in Kansas City, Missouri and attended the University of Kansas for two years, where he played on the golf team and remained a fine golfer his entire life. He ultimately graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1927. Mr. Lied became a Buick dealer in Omaha, Nebraska and during World War II, when automobiles were not manufactured, he established Lied Precision Tool. When automobile manufacturing resumed, Lied Buick was ranked third in the country for the number of cars sold. In 1958, Mr. Lied retired from the automobile business, began acquiring vacant land in Las Vegas and engaged in the development of small shopping centers and a motel. He always enjoyed the challenge of making a deal. Mr. Lied established his charitable foundation in 1972, and upon his death in 1980 at age 74, nearly his entire estate funded the Lied Foundation Trust. The Lied name has been emblazoned on an array of wonderful projects and implanted the influence of his resources in a host of communities and countless lives.

Meet the Inaugural Scholars

Crystal Caldwell, a sophomore at UNLV, is a first generation student. She is striving to earn her Bachelor’s degree in Biology and later plans to earn her DVM in veterinary medicine. She enjoys reading and writing poetry in her free time. She also enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and fiancé.

Natalie Costa is a freshman who is under the Academic Success Center as an Exploring Major. In her spare time, she loves to play softball and dance. She stays active with cancer walks located around the community. Natalie is excited to be attending UNLV and learning about all the resources available to the students. She hopes to be involved in club on campus and to meet new people.
Sabina Catak is an incoming freshman at UNLV and a Criminal Justice major. After completing her degree, she plans to join the FBI. She loves to play sports, read, and help others on her spare time. Sabina’s main goal at UNLV is to help guide students throughout college and find their passion in life by making their college career as successful as possible.

Melanie Cruz has lived in Las Vegas since she was four years old. She is currently a freshman at UNLV and the first child in her family to attend a university. Some of her hobbies include listening to music, drawing, surfing the web, and hanging out with family and friends. She has also been active in the community since she was in middle school.

Brendon Herzig is attending his first year at UNLV and is working toward a degree in Hotel Administration. In the summer, he attended the Summer Bridge Program, which is a math program offered to incoming freshmen by the Academic Success Center. Brendon loves to participate in sporting activities.

Kelly Lutzker is a returning freshman and is currently an Exploring major student. She spends most of her time finding new artistic projects to work on, reading classic novels, and writing stories.

Victoria Mitchell, a freshman at UNLV, loves trying new things. She prefers to be busy so, she is often seen helping others by volunteering and tutoring in her spare time.

Wesley Knight is a Hixson-Lied Scholar and a freshman at UNLV. He is currently majoring in Secondary Education and wishes to pursue a career teaching English. Wesley’s hobbies include playing guitar and singing.
Brittany Prescott is a sophomore at UNLV. She is currently pursuing a degree in Business Marketing with a minor in French. She hopes to own a business some day that deals with fashion, event planning, or interior design, and would like to travel to various countries across the world. Brittany’s goal as a Hixson-Lied scholar is to help others achieve their goals as college students to ensure a brighter future.

Garrett Wilson is in his second year of study at UNLV. He is pursuing his dream of becoming a film director and plans to carve a path within the institution’s prolific film program. With the help of the Hixson-Lied Success Scholar’s Program, he will achieve his greatest ambitions. In his free time, Garrett enjoys writing and thinking about the greatest mysteries of the universe.

Word From the Dean

With special appreciation to Ms. Christina Hixson and the Lied Foundation Trust, the Academic Success Center is very enthusiastic about the inaugural year of the Hixson-Lied Success Scholars! Ten UNLV undergraduate students will receive scholarship support for up to eight semesters, which will contribute to fulfilling their academic hopes and dreams. As Ms. Hixson has said, “Ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things!”

An important part of the Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship is the opportunity for our Scholars to give back to other students through peer mentoring, staffing our Student Union satellite location and offering support in our First Year Seminars. The Hixson-Lied Success Scholars offer a very helpful perspective and sense of support of their peers, since the Scholars have faced and are overcoming financial and personal challenges. We look forward not only to the success of our Hixson-Lied Scholars, but also to the success of the students whom they are helping!

- Dr. Ann McDonough

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