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Creighton University's Sarah Trausch named EducationQuest Campus Mentor of the Year

(Lincoln, Neb.) Sarah Trausch, assistant director of financial aid at Creighton University, has been selected as EducationQuest Foundation's Campus Mentor of the Year.

Trausch was nominated for the award by her mentee, Ameera Naif, a freshman neuroscience major at Creighton University.

"I'm so grateful to have Sarah as my mentor," Naif said. "She is caring, enthusiastic and thoughtful. Her positive and compassionate attitude are inspiring, and I'm thankful for everything she does to help me be successful."

Trausch began her work in Creighton's Financial Aid Office in 2004. Prior to that she worked as a college planning specialist at EducationQuest Foundation. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 2000.

Trausch said students like Ameera are why she continues to love her job after all these years. The part of her job she loves the most is the one-on-one appointments she has with students and their parents regarding the different financial aid options available to them and describing each one in detail.

"Providing them with the detailed information they need and helping them figure out how they are going to afford their education brings students one step closer toward their dreams and goals for the future," said Trausch. "This is something that I take great pride in. I know the attention I give to each student and family that I encounter helps them feel more comfortable about this very important life decision they are about to make."

EducationQuest Vice President for Grants and Scholarships Eric Drumheller said, "The Campus Mentor of the Year Award was created as a way for *Reaching Your Potential* students and EducationQuest Foundation to show appreciation for the outstanding work and positive impact Campus Mentors have on their students' college experiences. Campus mentors play a critical role in our scholarship program, and we are so grateful for their dedication to ensuring the success of students."

The *Reaching Your Potential Scholarship Program* provides renewable scholarships twice a year to low-income Nebraska students who face obstacles to college. Applicants are referred by community agencies and schools statewide. Since the program began in 2000, EducationQuest has awarded more than \$7.4 million in scholarships to 584 Nebraskans.

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EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska. Headquartered in Lincoln, EducationQuest provides free college planning services, need-based scholarship programs, college access grants for high schools, college access resources for middle schools, and outreach services for community agencies. For more information, visit [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org) or call 800.303.3745.