The Vanguard and Caldwell Communities of Scholars are for highly motivated students who embody leadership skills and a desire to improve our world through science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These service leadership programs develop transformational leaders through professional development, community service and academic success opportunities over the course of four years. As members of the Vanguard and Caldwell communities, scholars benefit from vertically integrated support within the cohort, access to women faculty and campus leadership, in addition to financial assistance.

Program objectives

- Provide a **signature student experience** that meets the needs of each Vanguard and Caldwell scholar
- Increase **sense of belonging and connection** on campus
- Increase **confidence** in ability to achieve academic, personal and professional goals
- Increase **leadership skills**
- Greater **affinity** toward Mines
- Increase **confidence** in written and verbal communication
- Increase **preparedness** for working with individuals with diverse social identities
As members of the Vanguard and Caldwell communities, scholars receive personal and professional development opportunities. The program includes a special section of Freshman Success Seminar (CSM101) taught by a prominent leader on campus, unique networking opportunities with Mines faculty and alumni who are changing the world through cutting-edge research, mentorship and professional development for campus leadership opportunities, internships, research positions or on-campus jobs and an annual scholarship for four years.

**COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS**

- **135** Vanguard & Caldwell scholars
- **4** Cohorts
- **5** Faculty mentors
- **$5,000** Annual scholarship for CO residents*
- **$7,500** Annual scholarship for non-residents
- **3.53** Average GPA**

* Caldwell scholars receive a full-tuition scholarship for all four years. **Excludes 2023 cohort.

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

The Vanguard and Caldwell programs' values and objectives set the structure for the scholars community. The scholars' qualitative and quantitative feedback throughout the academic year help shape the evolution of the program.

Compared to your expectations at the beginning of the year, how did your participation in the Vanguard program impact your

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership skills</th>
<th>Ability to achieve your academic and/or career goals</th>
<th>Sense of belonging to the Vanguard Community of Scholars</th>
<th>Sense of belonging to the broader Mines community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A little</td>
<td>A moderate amount</td>
<td>A lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=170 responses

Additional data are found on the Vanguard and Caldwell outcomes webpage.

**SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT**

Name: Tobin Houchin
Hometown: Bellvue, Colorado
Major: Quantitative Biosciences and Engineering, 2025

“I came into my first year at Mines with a brass-stamped impression of the rules of possibility. This program wiped that image away, and gave me permission, resources and motivation to pursue my craziest, most magical dreams. I wouldn’t have made it to Mines without this program.”