

Workshops, Conferences

No Prerequisites

Nebraska Center Aids Youth, Adult Education

Editor's note: The Nebraska Center was scheduled to hold its dedication last week. Due to a construction strike, however, the Adult Wing has not yet been completed. The Youth Hall has been in operation for a week, however, and has housed a First Aid Conference, a State Extension Meeting and a Northwestern Bell Telephone conference. This week 300 4-H Club members will stay in the Youth Hall dormitory during the State 4-H Club Congress.

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By Jim Forrest

In keeping with the concept of adult and youth education throughout the United States, individuals and groups will look upon the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education as a place where education can be obtained, regardless of previous educational background.

The Nebraska Center, located on the College of Agriculture campus, has unlimited resources for making both young and adult citizen's participation in a program of continuing education a memorable and valuable one, according to Dr. K. O. Broady, director of the Nebraska Center.

Two Programs

Built at a cost of over \$2 million, the Nebraska Center will have a two pronged program of continuing education—the Adult Wing and the Hall of Youth.

Dr. Arthur B. Ward, director of the Adult Wing, said the Nebraska Center's adult program was planned and will be maintained to help adults:

—meet, successfully, the ever increasing complexity of 20th century living;

- broaden concepts and perspectives;
- acquire new skills and abilities;
- reinforce skills once learned and abilities once developed.

In commenting about continued education, Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin said, "A single period of education, even if it includes college, is no longer enough to serve throughout a productive lifetime."

The Nebraska Center, which was financed by a \$1.5 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and over \$1 million from personal and business gifts from Cornhuskers throughout the state, will offer study and living facilities for adult groups attending exploratory conferences or concentrated workshops.

Three or 300

"The facilities available can accommodate a committee of three or groups of 50, 100 or 300 or more, all in a learning atmosphere, be the group businessmen, farmers, physicians, teachers, homemakers or candlestick makers," Dr. Ward said.

The Nebraska Center planners have made certain that the conveniences needed by busy people away from their homes and businesses for just a day or for one or two weeks are "built in," said Dr. Ward. This includes parking facilities for 300 cars.

In the hotel, the Nebraska Center can accommodate 196 guests in air conditioned rooms, sleeping two persons each with a private bath and closet space, to assure the adult student of privacy, comfort and relaxed study atmosphere, according to Dr. Ward.



NEBRASKA CENTER—The \$2 million Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, completed all but the finishing touches, stands ready to serve adults, youth and alumni of the University in the Nebraska area.

A complete food service is available. As many as 750 can be accommodated in the State Room, and from 20 to 60 persons in the smaller private dining rooms.

Class facilities in the adult wing include over a dozen conference rooms and a modern auditorium that can accommodate 600 persons sitting in chairs at tables on the first floor with room for note taking and working.

"The auditorium," said Dr. Ward, "includes a stage area for speakers, panels and demonstrations and a seating area divided into two sections with a capacity of 340 persons on the first floor and 260 persons in the balcony. This area is also used by the Hall of Youth."

University Groups

Dr. Ward explained that the Nebraska Center's facilities are not limited to only non-university groups and that faculty and student educational conferences may also be accommodated.

"Whatever the range of specialized interest, a program can be developed through the Department of Conferences and Institutes and provide each group with the Nebraska Center's excellent leadership and professional counsel," he said.

He went on to say that authorities and experts from every walk of life can be obtained for a Nebraska Center program. Where local experts are available, be they professors, researchers or laymen, they will be provided. In addition, Dr. Ward's office is in constant touch with experts and outstanding speakers should the conferees wish to obtain the services of leading authorities from other institutions and from other walks of life who may not be available locally.

"The adult wing of the Nebraska Center will provide the groups with the most advanced teaching and learning aids," Dr. Ward said.

Besides the very latest audio-visual and teaching aids and public address system, the Nebraska Center will have access to federal, state and University film libraries and those from the National Education Television network as well as many produced by trade, industrial and non-profit organizations, he said.

Education Stressed
Dr. Ward warned that the

Nebraska Center for Continuing Education is an education center, not a convention center.

"No matter what the group or what the program consists of, before they can use any of the Nebraska Center's facilities, they must obtain the sponsorship of a University department," he said.

In addition to the Adult Wing, the Nebraska Center has a Hall of Youth which will have facilities for youth oriented conferences and workshops of short duration and also an 8-week Midwest Institute for Young Adults.

According to Dr. Otto Hoiberg, director of the Hall's youth program, the Hall of Youth will fill a major gap in the educational opportunities for youth.

"The Midwest Institute has been specifically designed to meet the practical requirements of thousands of young adults who do not go on to college," said Dr. Hoiberg.

In a recent address, Dr. Hoiberg cited figures that showed that out of the total number of high school graduates in the state each year two-thirds or an annual 8,000 young adults do not continue their education on a college or university level. He also said that the Glenny report to the Nebraska legislature said that 70 per cent of the state's college-age youth are not attending a college or University.

Terms

The Institute program will include four eight-week terms during each biennium; that is, a fall and winter term each year. Each term will differ in content from every other and will be open to any mature, interested young adult from rural or metropolitan areas beyond high school age, he said.

"The teaching staff will be drawn, with a few exceptions, from the regular faculty staff at the University on an overload basis in addition to their regular duties," Hoiberg said.

The instruction, which will utilize the services of about fifteen different departments of the University of Nebraska, will be comprised of three basic elements including job-related courses, home and community development and social and recreational activities.

The job-related courses include merchandising (introduction to business, small business management, busi-

ness and public speaking), office secretarial and clerical work (office machines, secretarial training, business correspondence, advanced typewriting, use of farm power and machinery, welding, field crops, animal diseases).

"The job-related courses are designed to give the young adult practical experience and training in a field of interest so that he may get a better job than he has or do better in his present position," said Dr. Hoiberg.

Courses in home and community development consist of such subjects as marriage and the family, world affairs, citizenship, reading for enjoyment and recreational leadership.

Club activities, swimming, field trips, bowling, basketball, ping pong, chorus, square dancing and discussion groups are some of the social and recreational activities open to the young trainees.

Courses, Recreation

Dr. Hoiberg explained that three-fourths of the student's work load will be selected from job-related courses while the remaining one-fourth will be from courses in home and community development. In addition, all students will participate in social and recreational activities, he said.

As a direct outgrowth of the experimental Nebraska School for Community Living conducted in 1956 and 1957, the Institute's program was initiated in 1959 by Dr. Hoiberg after the plans received final approval. The first session of the Institute will be held in the newly completed Nebraska Center on October 30, running through December 22.

Dr. Hoiberg stated that the Institute was originally built and will be maintained around the clearly defined objectives including:

- The development of leadership skills;
- Increasing understanding of opportunities and responsibilities for effective citizenship in our democracy;
- Provision for post high school residential training in such job-related fields as business, office work and agriculture for young men and women whose formal education has ended with high school graduation;
- Personal counseling assistance for young adults concerning selection of a life work;

Provision for experience in group living.

In addition to the Institute, the Hall of Youth also has initiated a program which will emphasize short training activities for youth oriented groups. These special courses and programs are also arranged to serve such groups as the Future Farmers of America, 4-H groups, Junior Red Cross and other appropriate youth groups which may find the Hall of Youth suited to their needs.

"Students are assisted in evaluating and developing their own potentials and their vocational possibilities," said Dr. Hoiberg, who also heads the University's department of community services.

Length Varies

In this short training program, groups will come into the Nebraska Center and the Hall of Youth for periods ranging from a day to a week.

"Most of the groups that will come to the Hall will have their own training program planned and their own leaders," said Dr. Hoiberg. "It will be up to the Hall to open its facilities to accommodate the groups during the training period."

Both the young adults attending the Midwest Institute and the short duration training programs will be housed on the two floors of the Hall of Youth. The Nebraska Center is able to accommodate 280 young adults, 140 on each floor.

"Movable partitions will be used to divide a single room into two areas when the ratio of boys and girls is unequal," explained the program director.

Permanent resident counselors will be assigned to the young men and women on each floor to guide them in their social and study activities and to maintain adequate and competent supervision.

Food service is provided from the same kitchen that serves the adult wing but is served in a separate dining room in the Hall.

Facilities, Activities

The Hall of Youth will also have the auditorium and training aids at its disposal that are used in the Adult Wing. Class and conference rooms are available to accommodate large or small groups attending the Hall. The recreation-

al program includes club activities, square dancing, ping pong, movies, music, swimming and bowling. In short, it provides all the social and recreational activities enjoyed by the regular students at the University of Nebraska.

In facing the unmet need for continued education for youth, Dr. Hoiberg called the Hall of Youth "a unique institution which will provide the student at the Hall of Youth with the essential training and knowledge in technical courses as well as humanities and fine arts needed to earn a living and live a life by utilizing the most modern as well as the best of the traditional teaching techniques of a university and allowing our youth to live in a most stimulating environment."



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