

# Few minority students taking up health studies

By Susie Reitz

Statistics indicate minority students are improperly represented in Allied Health professional training at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), according to Walt Buckner, instructor in the Medical Technology Division and chairman for the Minority Students Recruitment Committee (MSRC) at the center.

Buckner said three and one-half per cent of the students enrolled in the UNMC are minority students. The center serves a community with a 10 per cent black population alone, he said. He did not have statistics on other minorities.

In the Omaha area there are six black doctors and of those, one is in general practice, one is retired, and others are on hospital staffs, Buckner said.

### Have a chance

"Nationwide, the statistics are not much better but we want to show minority students they do have a chance in the professions and they are needed," he said.

The general population is 11 per cent black, but 2.2 per cent of U.S. physicians are black, Buckner added.

"We don't want a quota system, but there are just as many black students qualified and we want them to

know of the opportunities in the field," Buckner said. His committee was formed in 1970 and reorganized in 1973.

"We are working on a plan of attack to reach minority students and inform them of opportunities in Allied Health professions," Buckner said. Allied Health includes physicians, nurses, physical therapists, medical technologists, and others, he said.

### Hands full

The volunteer committee "has its hands full now working with the Omaha Public School systems to make presentations to students at various schools throughout the city," Buckner said.

"We felt the first thing the committee should do was talk with those young enough to start preparing themselves in high school," he said.

"Students already in college usually either have some idea what they are going to do, or are limited by their educational background," he commented.

Ideally, he said, the committee members want to provide information to all minority students in high schools and colleges statewide, but that expansion is too much for the committee of 38.

### Coordinator needed

"What we really need is a full-time coordinator for the program," Buckner said, "we could also do more

if faculty members, staff, and students at the Medical Center would get involved, but everyone is too busy with their own responsibilities to give much time to recruitment."

The MSRC program involves minority UNMC students and professionals who speak to students about the Allied Health field.

Part of the program is a film titled "Code Blue," and is about an emergency room operation in a large hospital. The film shows minority personnel in aspects of health care and gives national statistics on minorities in health care occupations.

### 1,500 responses

As a follow-up to the presentations, the committee asks interested students to complete a questionnaire. First semester this year, the committee received responses from 1,500 students requesting more information.

The committee also conducts tours of the UNMC and assists in starting health profession clubs in schools, Buckner said.

The committee hopes to inform students early, particularly around ninth grade "when they are just beginning to plan a high school career study program," Buckner said. "We want to show them that we've made it and they can too."

## Campus Police has job openings

Gail Gade, UNL Campus Police chief, said that, presently, there are openings for more campus police officers.

Gade said that Campus Police includes both men and women. There are 43 persons, including five women, on the force. The campus normally has 45 officers.

Qualifications for the job of campus police officer, Gade said, include a high school education or equivalent. The applicants must pass a written examination, have a physical and psychological examination and take a polygraph test.

"The lie detector test is used to screen applicants," he said. "We ask them if they have ever been arrested for anything besides minor violations. Any deception will come out in the polygraph test."

"If an applicant fails one part of the tests, they're disqualified from consideration. If it comes down to three equally qualified people, we'll pick the one we think is best suited for the force. Previous experience helps."

Gade said that student security officers, who act as night watchmen at dormitories, are hired at the beginning of the semester. Most openings occur as a result of seniors being graduated.

Qualifications for the student security job include above freshmen level, a 2.5 grade point average, and no arrests.

Gade said Campus Police would not be hiring any students during the summer because of the smaller enrollment. Student security officers applications are handled by the housing security office in Seaton Hall while campus police officers are processed by administration.

## Dentistry research winners announced

The UNL College of Dentistry has announced the winners of an annual clinic research competition and named several students to act as representatives at dental conferences this spring.

Eugene Merchant, Assistant Dean of the College of Dentistry, reported a total of 51 student presentations at the annual meeting April 3, which was open to the public. Merchant compared the meeting to the College of Engineering's annual E-Week.

The students represented two divisions, junior-year dental students and senior-year dental hygiene students, and competed for prizes in each division as teams or individually. Daniel McDonald and Rogert Etmiller were awarded first prize in the dental student competition for their table clinic presentation of Lateral Canals in the Dentition. The team of Marcia Johnson and Beth Pederson took first prize in the dental hygiene division.

Merchant explained that projects were judged by a faculty committee for completeness, accuracy and quality.

The college has also announced that student William Ursick will represent the UNL College of Dentistry at the conference of the International Association for Dental Research in London, England, later this week. Waldemar de Rijk will be UNL's representative to the Dental Student's Conference on Research at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor April 28 and 29. Both were selected on the basis of research done under the guidance of a faculty member.

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