



Photo by Ely Marsh

Reginald Cedarface, acting director of the Lincoln Indian Center.

Lincoln Indian Center changes location, leadership, programs

A new location, new leadership and new programs are changes in recent months at the Lincoln Indian Center.

The center, 243 So. 20th St., provides assistance to Lincoln's Indian population of 600 to 1,000 persons, according to Reginald Cedarface, acting director.

The September move from the second floor office at 930 O St. was, in part, to make the center more accessible to elderly persons, Cedarface said.

Physical changes were needed before the move could be made. The Metro Peris Luthern Council, which serves as an advising council to the center, donated the necessary money for the renovations. Cedarface said that staff members and community volunteers provided the needed manpower for the work.

Jobs a problem

The biggest problem in Lincoln's Indian community is unemployment, he said. The Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), a federally funded program designed to provide assistance to persons wishing to get their General Election Diploma (GED) and continue their college education, trade school or other post secondary education institutions, has an office in the center.

Cedarface said CETA representatives are working with students between the ages of 18 and 30 at the center and provide a small stipend to students.

The city provides a full-time counseling and referral staff

to work with alcohol related problems in the Indian community, Cedarface said.

The Indian Center Incorporated, an information referral based non-profit organization also is located in the center.

Cedarface said that although they are in different offices within the center, each works with the other in providing a wide range of assistance to the Indian community.

Former instructor

Originally from Pine Ridge, S.D., Cedarface replaced Director Francis Black Elk as acting director Oct. 1. He said he will know by Dec. 23 whether he will be named permanent director of the center. Prior to coming to Lincoln, Cedarface was an instructor and director of the Indian Studies Dept. at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D.

Cedarface described the overall response to the center's new location by Lincoln's Indian community as good. He said various community organizations are using the center's conference room as a meeting place.

Plans for the Lincoln Indian Center include a health program, for which the county will provide a nurse; a social services division which would serve in a referral and counseling capacity; a youth recreation department which would provide supervised activities for grade school and teenage youth in the community; and a tutor program that would use Indian students at UNL.

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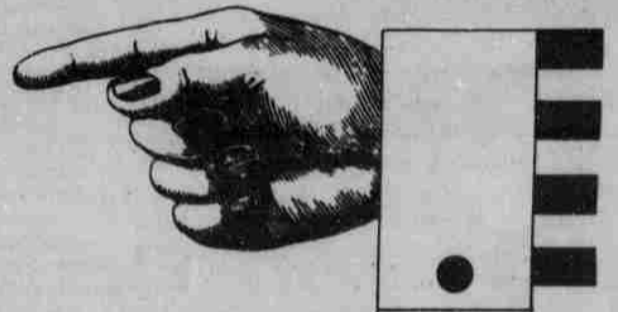
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