

Grad program awaits approval

Two men from UNL's Multi-Cultural Affairs Dept. have left on a trip to seek support for a proposed American Indian graduate program in business administration and economics.

Gordon Kitto, Multi-Cultural Affairs Native American counselor, and Joe Renteria, special services coordinator for Multi-Cultural Affairs, will visit tribal chairmen and education directors during the seven-day trip. They left Wednesday.

Norden Laboratories of Lincoln donated \$400 for the trip. Kitto and Renteria will stop at 23 reservations and Indian centers.

Gary Schwendiman, associate dean of the College of Business Administration said Norden donated the money because the firm saw the proposed program as an opportunity for people to help themselves.

The program has been accepted by CBA and awaits approval by seven of the 13 tribal councils in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Although the program is still in the planning stage, Kitto said the Bureau of Indian Affairs would pay half of a student's tuition while UNL would supply the other half through grants and work-study programs.

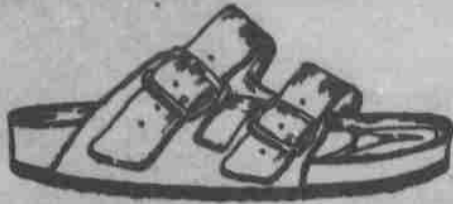
Saying there is "a lot of footwork to be done" before the program begins, Kitto would not speculate on the amount of money which might be involved.

He said he was optimistic that the recruiting trip would spark favorable interest from tribal chairmen. He added that they had not yet heard of the program.

"The Indian people need it, but it comes to tribal politics. If the tribes don't see the need then it won't go," Kitto said.

Schwendiman said he thinks it is a lack of opportunity, not a lack of ability that has kept American Indians from enrolling in CBA.

"We need to provide that opportunity," he said, adding that CBA wants to enroll qualified American Indian students in its classes.



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