

Medical Center tries recruiting to increase minority enrollment

By Christopher Burbach

Minority student enrollment at the University of Nebraska Medical Center has almost doubled since 1976, according to figures supplied by Anece McCloud, director of Minority Student Affairs at UNMC.

Thirty-eight students were enrolled in 1976, while 71 enrolled there last year.

McCloud credited the increase to a combination of factors.

"I attribute it to the commitment of the administration, our recruitment efforts and an increase in sensitivity and understanding on campus, she said.

McCloud's office tries to recruit "under-represented minorities," meaning ethnic groups whose representation in health careers is very low compared to their representation in the general population. She said those groups include blacks, Chicanos, Native Americans and mainland Puerto Ricans.

McCloud said her office's recruiting program focuses mainly on Nebraska colleges such as UNL, UNO, Creighton and Doane, that have under-represented minorities enrolled. People from her office visit schools and talk with students, trying to get them interested in health careers.

Interested students can participate in programs aimed at increasing their chances for acceptance into medical school, and preparing them to do well if accepted, McCloud said.

"We have a baccalaureate-level summer program for ethnic minority students," McCloud said. Participants in that program review college level sciences and other subjects, preview medical school-level material and increase research skills.

"Out of 10 students who participated in the program in 1981, six were accepted at the medical center," McCloud said.

McCloud said she also works directly with the

admissions committee, trying to "sensitize people to the minority life style," and heighten their understanding of minority applicants.

When a student is accepted, he or she may take advantage of a pre-enrollment program which introduces students to campus, offers sessions in test-taking and study skills, and acquaints students with the Minority Affairs Office, McCloud said. In addition, individual colleges within UNMC offer small group tutorials for minority and other non-traditional students who can best benefit from a small-group setting, she said.

"I don't really think anyone could say that we are giving unequal treatment or discriminating against anyone," McCloud said.

She said UNMC recruits majority students, visiting schools much the same way her office does. She said minority students who are accepted are qualified, and her program, which is 75 percent federally funded, has no quota.

Cheryl Jac, 24, is a second-year student at the Medical Center who went through the Minority Affairs Office's summer program in 1982. Originally from Akron, Ohio, Jack came to the summer program to check out the UNMC. It compared well to other schools, she said, so when she was accepted by Nebraska she decided to enroll here.

Jack tutored in this year's summer program. "I was there as a reference for biology, chemistry, math and physics," she said.

She said participants in the program get advice on acceptance and what field may be best for them.

Jack, who plans to work in community health, said she feels the Minority Affairs Office needs to "branch out into the community."

"We feel we have to offer a realistic picture of medicine to anyone who wants to enter the medical field," she said.

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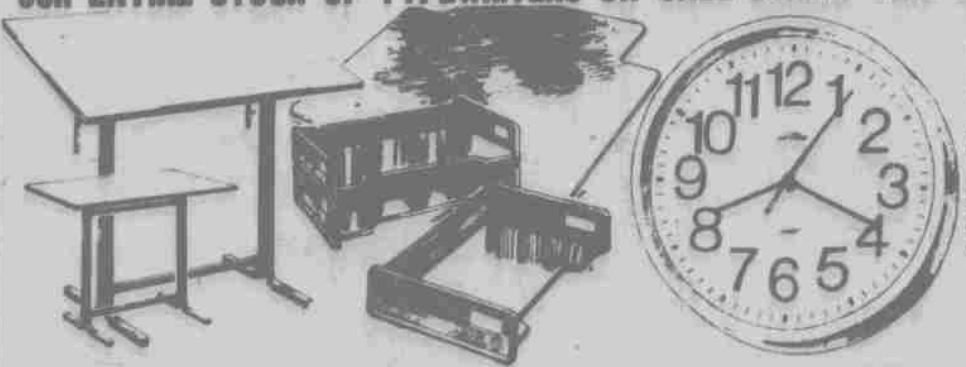
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