

UNL graduate psychology students may counsel city-county inmates

By Christopher Galen

A program to provide mental health services to Lancaster County prisoners is being developed by the UNL clinical psychology department.

Dr. James Cole, director of the clinical psychology training department, said under the program, an advanced graduate student from the psychology department would work directly with prisoners in the city-county jail facilities. The intern would help evaluate prisoners' mental health problems and provide crisis intervention counseling if necessary, Cole said.

The Lancaster County Board of Corrections heard a report about the program during its meeting Tuesday afternoon and decided to allow Corrections Department Director Patrick D. Rackers, to work with Cole to develop such a program.

The county might save between \$10,000 and \$15,000 with the graduate assistant program and still have "highly qualified people" working with the prisoners, Rackers said.

Rackers asked Cole last month about the feasibility of such a service which is similar to other programs the UNL Psychology department offers in southeast Nebraska.

The graduate intern in the program would be supervised by a licensed clinical psychologist, possibly a UNL psychology professor, Cole said.

The intern also would aid city-county jail personnel counseling services, he said.

Although the graduate assistant program is still in the planning stages, it could begin in July or September of 1984 if the corrections board approves it, Cole said.

Teaching program earns top grade

By Kelli Kellogg

The student teaching program at UNL's Teachers College was rated the nation's finest in a recent study conducted by Northern Illinois University.

UNL was one of four out of 902 colleges and universities surveyed that met 21 of the 24 standards of quality developed for the study, according to a press release.

Criteria included the experience and education of supervisors, and the design of pre-student teaching practicum experiences.

James O'Hanlon, Teachers College dean, attributed the success of the program to the support given by Lincoln teachers.

"We've worked together with a number of teachers from Lincoln schools," he said. "We share this award."

Currently, UNL student teachers are working in 37 school districts throughout Nebraska. The major part of the program is conducted in the Lincoln Public Schools.

"A lot of other schools say it's a bother" to have student teachers, O'Hanlon said. "But teachers really use them in very important ways."

The student teaching process begins in a person's sophomore year, and gradually phases into the junior and senior years.

The college's student teaching program has been nationally recognized three times in the past four years. Besides its latest top ranking, the program received the Distinguished Teacher Education Award by the Association of Teacher Educators in 1979. In the spring of 1983, an evaluation team from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education judged UNL's program as exceptional.

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Correction

In a page 3 story in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan, the names of three of the candidates for Homecoming queen were inadvertently omitted. The candidates are Ellen Touchstone of Hastings, a French, German, psychology and linguistics major; Mary Trumble of Papillion, a dietetics major; and Laura Williams of Fremont, a math and life sciences/pre-medicine major.

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