

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Businessmen praise education

By Patty Pryor

Leading business figures attending Saturday's Governor's Conference on Economic Development agreed on the generally high quality of Nebraska's public education, but stressed the need to retain more of that acquired expertise within the state.

"In the last 30 years, we've seen more young adults migrating to other states than we've had locating here," Don Dworak, director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, said in his opening remarks.

To attract young, bright people to fuel Nebraska's economy, Dworak said, "We must encourage, nurture and assist new businesses in succeeding."

Nebraska boasts a number of economic advantages to attract new businesses, said Belden Hull Daniels, president of the Council for Community Development Inc. in Cambridge, Mass.

Among those advantages, Daniels agreed, is a strong educational system.

"You have a generally quite sound educational system, which is essential to economic development," he said.

"It's significant that you're fourth nationally in ACT scores, and it's significant that teacher salaries are an important economic issue (here)," Daniels said.

Coupled with a well-educated populace, Daniels said, is Nebraska's strong work force. "It's the kind that people want," he said, "which is a tremendous asset, and not a universal one."

In the area of financing, Daniels praised the state's banking system. Despite the Commonwealth

insolvency, he called it a "good, healthy system, attuned to the delicate balance of regulation."

Finally, he said, the state's central location also works to its advantage.

Despite these advantages, however, Daniels pointed out three major obstacles to Nebraska's economic development.

"There's a certain complacency here," he said. "You tend to ride with the country, rather than being rigorous about advantages and seizing opportunities. Economic development is something that is willed from within."

Secondly, Daniels said, competing factions tend to stall economic development.

"There is no custom of the public and private sector working together, or labor and management, local and national, Democrats and Republicans. Economic development is not a partisan issue."

Related to this, Daniels said, "There is not one Nebraska, but several."

Lincoln and Omaha could be a potentially powerful economic drawing card, he said, but they must stop playing "tug of war."

In a luncheon address, David Birch, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, stressed the need to gear education toward changing technology.

"I see a shift from a basis of muscles and dexterity to a basis of brains," Birch said. "I call this new economy coming down the road a 'thoughtware economy.'"

The state must adjust its economic strategy to accommodate this shift, he said, which includes a strong emphasis on the quality of education.

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Dave Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Alison Boyd was crowned winner of the Miss UNL Pageant for 1984 Saturday night.

## UNITE Party emphasizes reorganization

By Milli King

The UNITE Party announced its candidacy for ASUN Senate Sunday afternoon, stressing the need for reorganization of ASUN committees to improve communication between students and administrators at UNL.

UNITE represents the University of Nebraska's Interest Toward Education, said Mike Geiger, presidential candidate.

Geiger, a senior political science major, is an ASUN Arts and Sciences senator, Chancellor's Support Program Evaluation Board member, former president and secretary of Sigma Alpha Mu and former Inter-fraternity Council Scholarship Chairman, and IFC Rush and Interfraternal Relations committee member.

The reorganization of committees would allow more senators to get input from the student body, and to lobby the Legislature and regents, said Heidi Burklund, first vice presidential candidate.

Burklund, a sophomore political science and economics major, is an ASUN Teachers College senator,

Government Liaison Committee State Liaison chairwoman, second-year Nebraska State Student Association representative for Residence Hall Association, special topics vice-chairwoman, Health Center subcommittee chairperson, University Program Council subcommittee co-chairperson and Harper-Schramm-Smith government representative and publicity committee chairwoman.

The purpose of ASUN is to represent the students at UNL, Geiger said. "It is our duty to lobby for students' needs not only at the administrative level and the Board of Regents, but also at the Unicameral," Geiger said.

"The Unicameral is the hand that feeds our mouth. By lobbying the Legislature, we can present student views and concerns to our state senators," Geiger said.

UNITE said the NSSA is vital to the university as well as other state colleges.

"It is unfortunate that NSSA has become a campaign issue, since students can decide whether or not they want UNL to be a member," Geiger said.

"We feel that they should have accurate facts on which to base that decision," he said.

The NSSA represents concerns common to a students, he said. The university has its own registered lobbyists: Ruth Boham, GLC chairwoman, and Bill Swanson, Board of Regents corporate secretary, Geiger said.

"By utilizing these lobbyists and the NSSA, ASUN can stay abreast of issues and bills concerning students, and relay information to the students about when their testimony will be most effective," Geiger said.

UNITE supports the building of a free-standing bookstore, which would best serve the students' needs, Burklund said. The projected revenue should reduce student fees, and the space formerly occupied by the bookstore could be used to expand the Daily Nebraskan and possibly offer office space for the Culture Center, Burklund said.

"We feel that our ideas will benefit the entire student body," said Geiger. "Our experienced leadership can help steer ASUN toward becoming a more effective representation of student's views and concerns."

The UNITE Party will announce its second vice-presidential candidate at a later date.



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Presidential candidate Mike Geiger and his first vice-presidential candidate, Heidi Burklund, at podium, officially put the UNITE party in the ASUN race. Senatorial candidates stand in the background.

### Monday

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