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Research finds Nebraskans want UNL at academic top

By Jody Beem
Staff Reporter

Nebraskans want UNL to be the best state-supported school in the Midwest, according to the Bureau of Sociological Research.

Of 457 Nebraska adults interviewed, 93 percent thought UNL should try to become the top state-supported school in the Midwest academically, the 1984 survey said. However, only 25 percent of the people interviewed thought UNL was doing an excellent job in fulfilling its mission, the survey said.

This survey is just one recent example of the topics that the bureau researches said Alan Booth, co-director of the bureau. Since 1964, the bureau has done 65 reports on people's attitudes about such things as taxation and government spending, use of health services, water policies, status of women and the treatment of juvenile delinquents.

Surveys published

Each year the bureau publishes the Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey. NASIS tries to discern Nebraskans' general attitudes about the quality of life in the state, as well as pinpoint their views on specific topics, Booth said.

Usually 1,800 people are interviewed by phone for NASIS, Booth said. A computer randomly picks telephone numbers until 1,800 homes with adults have been reached. The survey asks general questions about a person's age, family size, education and occupation, he said. State agencies often put specific questions on a survey to discover people's attitudes on that agency or on a new policy, he said.

Nebraskans' general attitudes have changed over the last 10 years, he said. "People are a lot less optimistic about their financial situation," Booth said, "but are more relaxed about their safety on the streets."

Farmers pessimistic

The most recent survey done on farmers' views of their financial future, indicated that farmers who earn less than \$15,000 (37 percent of all farmers) are the most pessimistic about their financial future. The survey also indicates that dissatisfaction might stem from the difference between past and current income, not from being in a lower income bracket.

Booth said people's feelings of safety could be caused by a decreasing crime rate and less television coverage of Nebraska crime.

"We haven't had any sensational murders lately," Booth said.

State agencies pay a set rate per minute per question to have their questions included on the survey. The rest of the money for NASIS comes from UNL, he said.

NASIS has been used as a model for similar surveys performed in Kansas, Arizona and Canada, he said.

Who's News

Drawings on display

"Farm Family," a pencil drawing by UNL Art Professor David Routon, has been selected for display in the 31st annual Drawing and Small Sculpture Show at the Ball State University Art Gallery in Muncie, Ind. The drawing is

one of 62 works in the exhibit chosen from more than 400 entries.

Architecture awards

Three UNL College of Architecture alumni received the college's first Distinguished Alumni Awards at a dinner Friday in UNL's Wick Alumni Center.

Recipients were Jerome J. Gill, president of the total project service group of Henningson, Durham and Richardson; Golden Joseph Zenon Jr., founder of the architectural firm of Zenon-Berlinger and Associates, and Albert C. Hamersky, president and director of design for the Clark Enerson Partners Inc. architectural firm.

Agriculture, journalism to receive contributions from the NU Foundation

By Diana Johnson
Senior Reporter

Major contributions to Nebraska agriculture and the UNL College of Journalism were announced this weekend by the NU Foundation.

A \$30,000 grant from the Omaha World-Herald and the Peter Kiewit Foundation of Omaha was given for a major scholarship program for minority students planning careers in newspaper journalism, said R. Neale Copple, dean of the College of Journalism.

Copple said the scholarship program is an effort to increase the number of minority students planning careers in the newspaper field.

The scholarship program is a cooperative effort between the UNL College of Journalism and the Omaha World-Herald to help solve the minority prob-

lem, he said.

Details of the scholarship program will be "ironed out" next semester, Copple said. The program should be in operation by next fall, he said.

A \$100,000 gift also was given by the World-Herald Foundation to Nebraska agriculture for the NU Foundation's Agriculture 2001 program.

The Agriculture 2001 program addresses state agricultural needs.

Ten additional weather stations, which will be purchased for \$50,000, will complete the statewide system of weather stations that aid farmers and ranchers in recording weather data.

The Sandhills Resource Atlas will be completed with the other half of the gift, according to Edward J. Hirsch, NU Foundation treasurer. The Sandhills Resource Atlas will serve as a collection of information about the area.

Operation Santa gives toys to needy families

By Paula Evans
Staff Reporter

Needy children can get a Christmas gift of their choice through Lincoln's Operation Santa, which is beginning its 38th year.

Lincoln radio station KFOR, in conjunction with Nebraska National Guard, Lancaster County Welfare and Family Services, the Lincoln Action Program and various Lincoln stores, will sponsor the event.

Roger Larson, KFOR station manager, said social workers ask children from qualified needy families what they want for Christmas. The requests are then forwarded to the National Guard and KFOR.

Toys are bought at participating Lincoln stores for a maximum of \$11 each. The stores also gift-wrap the toys.

Larson said the toys are sent to the National Guard to be matched with the child's request and individually tagged to the child from Santa.

The gifts are then sent to the welfare

agency and grouped according to the number of children in a family. Families pick up their gifts at the welfare agency.

The program is funded by private donations from KFOR listeners, Larson said. On-air requests for donations begin after Thanksgiving. He said the station raises about \$30,000 each year for the program. Donations are acknowledged on the air and are used only for Operation Santa. He said KFOR staff members volunteer their own time to the project.

Donations for the Operation Santa Program can be sent to Operation Santa, KFOR, Box 80209, Lincoln, Neb. 68501.

UPC sponsors 'Places' tonight

"Places in the Heart" will be shown today at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. in the Great Plains Room of the East Union. Cost is \$1 with a Student ID and \$2 for non-students. Sponsored by UPC Sights and Sounds Committee.



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