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Health careers hot; farms continue fall

By Kip Fry
Staff Reporter

A lucrative and secure career. That's what you will probably get if you pursue a career in computers, engineering and various health services.

These fields are going to grow faster than usual during the next few years, according to Janel Queen, assistant director of UNL's Career Planning and Placement Center.

"There is a growing need for technology, for computers and for computer teachers," Queen said. "People are afraid that computers will take over the creative, more challenging jobs. But computers will handle the dull work."

This in turn will create more time for leisure, Queen said, so jobs will need to be created to serve those with more spare time. Subsequently, the high tech revolution will produce more jobs than it will replace, she added.

The Nebraska Career Information System recently rated the following occupations as having a "very favorable" outlook for employment in Nebraska: dental assistants; medical record technicians; medical secretaries; and physical therapists. Nationwide both podiatrists and respiratory therapists have the same positive outlook.

Mechanical engineering positions have high prospects because there is a demand for increasingly complex indus-

trial machinery and machine tools, according to a publication of the State Occupational Information Coordinating Commission.

There also will be a rising demand for the products of tool and die makers, placing that field in demand, the publication said.

An increased number of insurance adjusters also will be needed because of the growth of insurance sales.

Other fields that received positive predictions include accounting, marketing and sales, financial administration, education, and institutional management, Queen said.

But according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, farm-related occupations are among a number of fields that are expected to be insecure.

Queen said that the major hot spot for jobs will be the Northeast.

"But we're not the worst off," she added. "The northwest is hurting the most."

Queen noted that quotas for large employers are down, so prospective employees might have a better chance with smaller organizations. People forget to look at local opportunities, she added.

"I hate to have people plan for a career on a five-year projection," Queen said. "They should do what they want to do."

Ivy or cornhusks

Work ethic wins jobs

By Amy Edwards
Staff Reporter

Although no national rankings between colleges are available, UNL graduates are in demand each year because of the quality of the schools and the ethics of Midwestern students, officials say.

Jim Schiefelbein, of UNL Career Planning and Placement said that a school's reputation makes a difference in the job opportunities its graduates receive. According to Schiefelbein, companies continue to recruit from UNL because of the high standards of the university and the Midwestern work ethics of the graduates. Schiefelbein defined students with such ethics as "loyal, hardworking and upright people."

hire graduates from a larger university."

Propst said, however, that he does not feel threatened by this. Peru State College has had a 92 percent job placement rate for the last four years, which he said he feels exceeds the national average. Until 1963 Peru State College was exclusively a teacher's college and still enjoys an excellent reputation in that area, Propst said.

Alfred Pagel, Gannett professional lecturer in UNL's College of Journalism said that there is more demand than supply for journalism graduates.

"To my knowledge, no one has graduated since Dec. 1983 who wanted to go to work, who isn't out there working," Pagel said. Before they receive their diplomas, 25 to 50 percent of news-editorial graduates have jobs, Pagel said.

'People who are hiring who come from large universities are inclined to hire graduates from a larger university.'

—Kent Propst

"Recruiters are happy with the people they've employed, so (they) come back year after year," said Schiefelbein.

Schiefelbein said all of UNL's colleges do well in job markets, particularly the teacher's, business administration and engineering colleges.

"These stand out because they are the most recruited," he said.

Assistant Dean Ron Joekel, Teachers College, said their placement record is partly because of the "interview fair" the college offers every year. School superintendents are invited to review graduates, and many are hired on the spot.

High admittance standards are another reason for the high placement records. According to Joekel, students must take a pre-professional skills test and have a grade point average of 2.5 or more to get into the college.

Kent Propst, director of college advancement at Peru State College, said state colleges and private colleges in Nebraska have a good reputation but, "in Nebraska there is no question that the universities of Nebraska enjoy and deserve the better reputations."

Propst said that hiring practices generally rely on two things: the type of job and who is doing the hiring.

"People who are hiring who come from large universities are inclined to

T.E. Hartung, dean of the College of Agriculture, said 90 percent of agriculture graduates are placed within six months of graduation.

"It appears that we have similar contacts to Big Eight and Big 10 colleges and are recognized on par with them," Hartung said.

Feedback from people who hire agriculture graduates show students have good ethics and are prepared for interviews, Hartung said.

"As far as ag-related positions go, we are the sole source for agencies in Nebraska," he said.

Joseph Luther, Architecture college Assistant Dean, said that of students who graduate with a masters degree in architecture, 95 percent have jobs with 30 days.

Luther said one of the reasons for this large demand is that Nebraska is the center for many large architectural firms.

Assistant Dean Bonnie Kimble, Law college, said that for about six or seven years, employment rate based on responses from graduate students has been about 89 percent.

Even though this is a high percentage, Kimble said that graduate students in the law college at UNL have a tough market to compete in with graduates from Ivy-league schools.

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