

Corpnet replaces instructors; businesses taught via video

By Libby York
Staff Reporter

Recent University of Nebraska-Lincoln cutbacks have proved that necessity is the mother of invention.

The University Division of Continuing Studies, for example, has had to compensate for \$100,000 in budget cuts and the elimination of two faculty positions.

Lack of funds have prevented instructors from teaching out-state courses to businesses. But videotape and live video hook-ups have replaced the previous personal instruction.

This program, called Corpnet, lets UNL professors teach classes on videotape, which is then broadcast to some Nebraska businesses.

Corpnet was organized last fall under the direction of Nebraska ETV and the business and engineering colleges. Credit courses and non-credit seminars to Omaha and Lincoln businesses are offered. The system operates at 2,500 megahertz and can't be received by televisions without a downlink and converter.

To date, Corpnet serves eight Omaha and two Lincoln businesses, which include American Telephone & Tele-

graph, Nebraska Department of Roads, Harris Laboratories, Control Data, Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph, Northwestern Bell and First National Bank.

"Businesses are reacting very favorably to Corpnet," said Mark Dresselhaus, director of business operations for continuing studies.

Since it began, Corpnet has offered five undergraduate and 10 graduate engineering courses, six undergraduate and five graduate business courses and eight general studies undergraduate courses, Dresselhaus said.

"Corpnet is allowing us to reach more students," Dresselhaus said. "The quality of instructional delivery is high."

Gwen Nugent, educational telecommunication services coordinator for ETV, said the system provides one-way video and two-way audio so business students can ask the instructor questions and participate in class discussion.

Corpnet is a positive and valuable program for students who can't leave their work site to commute to campus and attend classes, Nugent said.

"Student evaluations have been very positive," she said. "The advantages of Corpnet are outweighing the disadvantages."

Senators back plan

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the university "a first-rate research university."

Orr said that it was "coincidental" that U S West provided her with a chance to make good on that promise.

Both Sens. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln and Jerome Warner of Waverly said Orr's proposal is a good idea.

"I think it is wonderful," Marsh said.

She said the proposal would help Nebraska's economy in the long run and would probably bring in more companies such as U S West as well.

Warner agreed and said: "Any type of action taken to generate jobs relates to the necessity to have strong research programs at the university."

Orr has said she will propose the rest of her package for improving Nebraska's educational system next year.

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