

Former teacher assists job-seeking students

By Linda Bendixen
Staff Reporter

Janet Ellers begins her new job today, helping students find employment. Ellers will be assistant director of the Career Planning and Placement Center on the second floor of the Nebraska Union.

"It will be something new to work in administration," Ellers said. "It will be a challenge."

Ellers has been a faculty member of Teachers College for the last 11 years. She will continue to teach one class a year in the department of special education and communication disorders at the Barkley Memorial Center on East Campus.

As assistant director, Ellers will be in charge of teacher placement, working with UNL graduates who are entering the job market. She is available for individual counseling and will help students set up credential files, develop interviewing skills and write resumes. She also will be in charge of the teachers' interview fair in the spring. However, these new duties do not mean a complete change from her old position, she said.

"I consider it an extension of what I have been doing — teacher preparation," Ellers said. "I look forward to seeing the efforts of the classroom come to fruition. It's like the icing on the cake."

Supervising student teachers has given Ellers "a good look at what schools are looking for in teachers," she said. Ellers estimated that she's written about 500 references through the years.

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—Ellers

"I've made a lot of good contacts due to the references and can give good guidance to the students as to whom to list for references," she said.

Ellers said she would like to bring creativity and innovation to the office, including the use of videotapes of student teaching.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Janet Ellers

"Interviewers would be able to see the skills of the person they would be hiring," she said. "It could add a more personal touch than pen-and-paper resumes. It would also be more effective for students applying for jobs at great distances."

The videotaping would be optional, she said.

Ellers is also looking for ways to instill professionalism in students before their senior year by providing topical seminars to prepare students for a career.

"Teachers assume a major role in a community," she said. "I'd like to get hiring officials to talk about the community as well as the job."

She said she hopes students will look at the overall situation and not its location.

Ellers said she does not want the work of the Career Planning and Placement Center to end with placement.

"I'd like to set up a system of follow-up research on graduates — where they go, how long they stay."

She said she hopes to use the feedback to further improve the services of the office.

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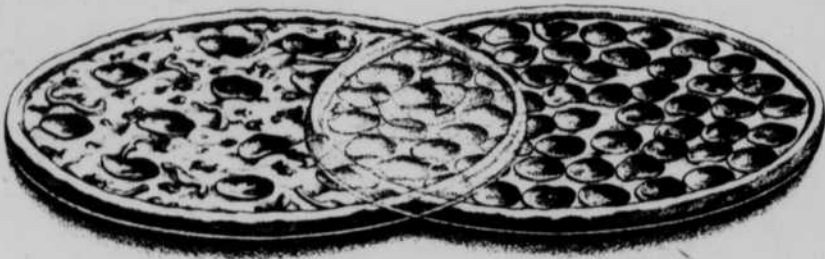
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