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STATE FAIR PARK / LINCOLN

Financing in doubt

Officials plan research center

By Jared Wittwer
Staff Reporter

UNL officials and Nebraska's representatives to Congress are trying to acquire \$20 million to give UNL a "top-of-the-line" research and teaching center for biotechnology, biochemistry and chemical engineering.

Marion O'Leary, director of the Center for Biological Chemistry, said the estimated cost of the George W. Beadle Center for Genetic and Biomaterials Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is from \$23 to \$24 million.

Generating financing has been the most difficult part of the project's development, O'Leary said.

Groundbreaking for the Beadle Center is scheduled for November 1991, with completion in 1993. The schedule may be delayed, however, if federal financing is held up, O'Leary said.

Sen. Bob Kerrey is attempting to get \$6 million in federal funds for the center through the 1991 treasury/postal service/general government appropria-

tions bill. The bill has passed Congress, but has to be resolved by a conference committee before it is sent to President Bush for his signature.

The center is a product of the Nebraska Research Initiative and has also received funds from an agricultural appropriation sought by Rep. Virginia Smith. These sources made up the \$3 million raised. Officials hope other federal funds will follow.

O'Leary said Nebraska officials should support fund raising for the center because the resulting research and development will contribute to the state's economy by applying new technology to private industry.

Since biotechnology, biochemistry and chemical engineering are closely related, O'Leary said, the Beadle Center will combine the three fields for increased research efficiency and improved teaching programs. Facilities will be more accessible and convenient, he said.

"Consolidation means efficiency," O'Leary said.

Genetics also will be studied under the biotechnology and biochem-

istry departments, O'Leary said.

Research from the Beadle Center could lead to improved strains of seed that would be more resistant to drought, disease and insects, O'Leary said.

In the areas of animal research and breeding, better quality meat and growth characteristics will be sought, he said.

Biotechnology research will aid in developing accuracy and speed of breeding, rather than the current process of random selection, he said. Desirable animal and plant traits will be observed genetically, rather than visually, as is done now, O'Leary said.

The Beadle Center is named in honor of biologist George W. Beadle for his contributions in gene research, O'Leary said. Beadle was born in Wahoo and received his undergraduate degree from UNL in 1926, O'Leary said. Beadle helped discover how genes work and how mutations occur, he said.

Beadle and Joshua Lederberg won the 1958 Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine.

Retreat takes on broader focus

By David Dalton
Staff Reporter

This weekend's cultural diversity retreat at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will focus on changing individuals rather than changing the campus environment, an official said.

Peg Johnson, executive assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, said that in the past retreats were intended to help student leaders improve appreciation of cultural diversity throughout UNL.

But when the retreats were over, she said, "people get busy. No matter how good your intentions are, some of them get lost."

The previous retreats were helpful for those involved and generated good ideas, she said, "but the follow-up hasn't been as good as anyone would hope."

After the first retreat two years ago, students formed the group Developing Realistic Educational Activities for Minorities to promote appreciation of cultural diversity, she said, but DREAM currently is not active.

This year's all-student planning committee decided that to be more

effective, the retreat should be more concerned with having an effect on the people who attend, Johnson said.

To accomplish this, the committee brought in the California-based group, New Bridges, to run the retreat.

Some committee members had

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If the retreat makes a difference in your life, it will make a difference in the people you touch.

Johnson
executive assistant to
the vice-chancellor for
student affairs

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participated in a retreat sponsored by New Bridges and wanted the organization to run UNL's cultural diversity retreat, said Giles Schildt, Residence Hall Association vice president and a member of the retreat planning committee.

Schildt said that because of New Bridges, the retreat will look not only

at racism but also at oppression in general.

When contacted about running the retreat, he said, New Bridges insisted that it be given a broader focus than racism based on the belief that all oppression is the same whether it arises from differences in race, ethnicity, gender or age.

Gwen Mosley, educational development coordinator at the University of California-Berkeley, where New Bridges held a workshop last year, said she was "extremely pleased" with the results.

"They just did a great job," she said. "It was a powerful workshop."

The program was responsible for students forming cultural support groups on Berkeley's campus, she said.

Johnson said the retreat should have positive effects at UNL, too. "If the retreat makes a difference in your life, it will make a difference in the people you touch," she said.

The retreat is full, she said, with 75 to 80 students and 10 faculty members planning to attend. The group will depart this afternoon and spend the weekend at Camp Kitaki in Ashland.

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