

Grant to help raise math awareness

By Trish Spencer
Staff Reporter

A \$4.47 million federal grant awarded to the University of Nebraska will help build mathematics awareness and enable more advanced learning in the state, an organizer said.

Donald Miller, a professor of mathematics and statistics at UNL and director of the Nebraska Mathematics Coalition, said the money will go toward public awareness programs, distance learning projects, elementary school projects and the recruitment of women and minorities into math and science-related fields.

The University of Nebraska will receive the state systemic initiatives award from the National Science Foundation over the next five years to promote math and science programs in kindergarten through college.

The awards, which range from \$5 to \$10 million, were awarded to 10 states on the basis of proposals submitted by state governors, Miller said.

Nebraska's proposal was submitted to the NSF by former Gov. Kay Orr last October, Miller said. Nebraska did not request more than \$5 million in order to increase its chance of being chosen, he said.

Thirteen states were selected for personal visits on the basis of the proposals, Miller said, and NSF sent a team to Nebraska to check out UNL and the members of the mathematics coalition, who include Gov. Ben Nelson and Miller.

NSF was impressed by the coalition members, UNL and the proposal, Miller said. NSF was especially interested in the distance learning project, he said.

The goal of the distance learning project is to bring quality science and math courses to small schools, Miller said.

This will be accomplished by designing special courses for elementary teachers, initiating staff development programs and transmitting math and science courses to small schools by satellite, Miller said.

Another goal of the coalition, he said, is to decrease the amount of repetition students experience in math classes in kindergarten through sixth grade. This would enable students to start advanced classes like algebra a year sooner, Miller said.

Additional experience in math and science is increasingly important, he said.

Stricter teacher requirements and the devotion of more time to math and science are other strategies planned to promote advanced subjects, Miller said.

The National Science Foundation award will come to the state through the UNL Department of Mathematics and Statistics, but will be distributed by the Nebraska Mathematics Coalition to schools in the state, Miller said. The state of Nebraska is to match the NSF award with its own funding, he said, which will be accomplished with state tax dollars.

Regent: Council satisfied with new role

From Staff Reports

The Council for Public Higher Education allayed concerns about its role in a restructured higher education system in a meeting with Gov. Ben Nelson, Regent Nancy O'Brien said Wednesday.

The voluntary council met with Nelson Tuesday and exchanged ideas on the strengthened Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, which had been only an advisory body.

The council had been concerned about being phased out of existence by the commission when it becomes stronger Monday.

O'Brien, who heads the council, said its members were given Nelson's view of their role in the new system.

The governor said the council would be "an efficient vehicle for the commission to use to stay in contact with the sectors of higher education," O'Brien said, which council members were satisfied

with.

"It was a very positive meeting," she said, with the governor and council members exchanging ideas on the commission.

Council members had feared that the governor saw the new commission members as agents to best serve the state, not as political appointees, O'Brien said, but these fears were laid to rest.

The governor has until Monday to name the 11 commission members.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

All students are eligible to apply for a refund of their "A" portion of student fees during a period beginning June 26 and ending July 12. Students claiming a refund will lose benefits provided by Fund "A" users during the 3-week Pre-Session, the 1st 5-week Session and the 8-week Session.

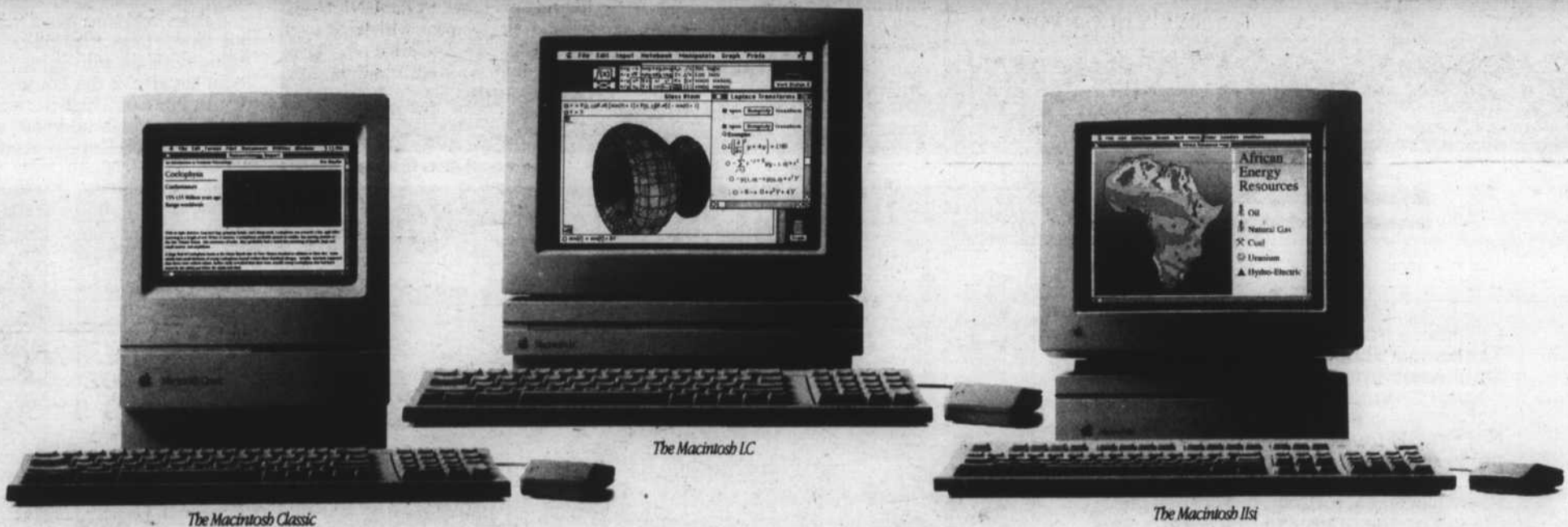
Application forms are available at the Student Activities Financial Service Office, 222 Nebraska Union and should be returned by the applicant in person to 222 Nebraska Union. Students must bring their student I.D. cards at the time of application. Students who are unable to personally return their application to the Student Activities Financial Services Office should contact Kim Underdahl, Room 222 (phone 472-5667) before July 12, 1991 to make arrangements.

Fund "A" refund amounts are as follows:

3-week Pre-Session.....	\$0.67
1st 5-week Session	\$1.11
8-week Session	\$1.78

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