



Shaun Sartir/DN

Joan Leitzel is UNL's new senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. Leitzel will be the highest-ranking administrator at UNL under Chancellor Graham Spanier.

# 'Guaranteed' success

## Vice chancellor focuses on academic programs

By Lori Stones  
Staff Reporter

Joan Leitzel accepted a permanent position at the National Science Foundation last March and she intended to keep it.

But when the University of Nebraska-Lincoln offered her a position this summer as the highest-ranking administrator under the chancellor, the opportunity was too good to pass up.

Leitzel packed her bags and this week settled into her position as UNL's new senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

As senior vice chancellor, Leitzel will receive an annual salary of \$128,000 for overseeing all academic programs except those in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In addition, she will oversee the graduate studies program and the International Affairs office.

"I'm very honored to be selected for this position," Leitzel said. "It wasn't in my plans, but when I visited, I concluded that it was an unusual opportunity."

Leitzel said the job would provide her with the chance to test new academic programs.

She already has achieved one of her plans with the announcement of the UNL Guarantee, which assures employers that UNL graduates possess the basic skills needed to perform a job in their degree. UNL is the first university to implement such a plan, Leitzel said.

Leitzel has many other ideas to

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enhance education at UNL, she said, but she will take them one at a time. Her list includes implementing a general education program and a program focusing on the freshman experience both in and out of the classroom.

"Retention at the freshman level is of high concern," Leitzel said. "It's the biggest loss."

Another focus will be on women and minorities.

"I want to make sure that all areas are inviting to all people," she said. "Women and minorities should have the same choices and options to enter areas."

Leitzel said she wasn't fully informed about the status of women at UNL, because she had only been here a few days.

But she is particularly aware of the problems women face nationwide in mathematics and the sciences, where women are underrepresented.

Before coming to UNL, Leitzel was a division director of materials development, research and informal science education for the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, she was a mathematics professor, beginning in 1970, at Ohio State University, and she served as associate provost from 1985 to 1990. Before that, Leitzel was an instructor at Oberlin College.

While she was the associate provost at Ohio State University, Leitzel was in charge of instruction and curriculum, academic program assessment and academic space assignments. Her biggest achievement is her distinguished teaching award at Ohio State University, she said.

Her most challenging job, Leitzel said, was at the National Science Foundation, where she worked to improve the education of the entire country. The job was hard, she said, because education is decentralized, making it difficult to know where a difference can be made.

Leitzel's education includes a doctoral degree from Indiana State University in 1965, a master's degree from Brown University in 1961 and a bachelor's degree from Hanover College in 1958. All her degrees are in mathematics.

In addition to her work, Leitzel participates in several national science and mathematics programs. She is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Sigma Xi.

# Baldwin returns to court to determine treatment

From Staff Reports

Prosecutors will try to prove Monday that UNL student-athlete Scott Baldwin is mentally ill, a danger to himself and others, and will likely remain a danger in the future.

Baldwin was charged with attacking Gina Simanek Mountain on Jan. 18 outside her apartment near 25th and T streets. At a June trial, the Lancaster County District Court found Baldwin not responsible for the beating because of insanity.

Baldwin is free on bond and has been living with Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne. He will not return to the Nebraska football team this fall.

Baldwin was diagnosed in March by Dr. Bruce Gutnik, an Omaha psychiatrist, as having major depression or a bipolar disorder. Both are mood disorders.

On July 7, a Lancaster County District Court found probable cause

to believe that Baldwin is a danger to himself and others under Nebraska law.

The probable-cause finding by Judge Paul Merritt was not a definite ruling that Baldwin is mentally ill and dangerous. It was a statement that some evidence exists that could lead to such a finding at Monday's hearing.

If the court determines Baldwin is mentally ill and dangerous, it will consider a treatment plan prepared by St. Joseph's Center for Mental Health in Omaha and order any needed changes. Baldwin would stay under the jurisdiction of the court and be subject to periodic progress reviews.

If the court does not find Baldwin to be mentally ill and potentially dangerous, it still may order him to continue treatment.

The Nebraska Athletic Department would continue to pay for Baldwin's treatment.

Mountain has returned to work full time as a graphic artist at the Lincoln Journal-Star.

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