

Teamwork makes College Park a reality

By Corey Russman
Staff Reporter

Five institutions have branched out to Grand Island to pave the way toward higher education in the 21st century.

It took nearly three years to finish, but students were able to begin attending classes at College Park this fall, said Richard Bringelson, the new facility's executive director.

The \$4.8-million project incorporates Central Community College, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Hastings College, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Those institutions offer classes at College Park, but College Park itself is not a degree-granting institution. Students who attend the facility will receive degrees through one of the five participating institutions.

Some classes at College Park will be taught

by professors who are present in the classrooms; others will be taught via television screen. In the televised classes, a special satellite will allow students and instructors to talk to each other.

"It is special, state-of-the-art technology with high-tech lighting and sound," Bringelson said.

Although many of the students are non-traditional, he said, "Nowadays, what is considered to be non-traditional?"

Most of College Park's students are from the Grand Island area and work part- or full-time, Bringelson said. However, a few traditional students, 18-22 years old, attend the facility.

College Park offers courses in areas such as business, art, computer science, English, entomology, mathematics, safety education and political science. A master's degree engineering program will be offered through UNL next semester, Bringelson said.

Because College Park is connected to a national network, it can offer courses from such schools as Ohio State University, Utah State University, Cornell University, the University of Idaho, UNL and UNK.

The facility also includes an auditorium/conference center and an art studio. The biology and chemistry rooms were built to upgrade nursing programs at UNK and Central Community College.

Classes run from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. most days. During the day, most classes are taught through Central Community College. Evening classes are offered by four-year colleges.

The idea of creating such a facility came about because Grand Island had no bachelor's degree program to offer employees of companies that might locate their offices there, Bringelson said.


UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier called College Park an effort to "bring higher education into Grand Island for those citizens who, because of jobs or their family, could not attend the University in Lincoln or Kearney." This is a way for the University of Nebraska to reach out to the state, Spanier said.

The University of Nebraska will pay Bringelson's salary of \$42,000.

Bringelson said that almost all of the funds needed to make the facility a reality came from community members and businesses, as well as donations from Lincoln and Kearney. It is the only such facility in the nation to accomplish that feat, he said.

Some government funding was used to build College Park because it was designed to house both the Hall County Extension Office and the UNL Cooperative Extension Office.

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Hilliard

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to know when a possible controversy looms, he said.

Some members of the community may object because they believe UNL should avoid topics dealing with any aspect of sex, Hilliard said.

"I think there will be some community members who will say the university should not be teaching this course," he said.

But Hilliard denied the change was linked to any sort of homophobia in the English department.

"I'm not being homophobic to acknowledge that some people will object to a course dealing with gay and lesbian literature," he said.

Fate of ROTC ban lies in Washington

By Virginia Newton
Staff Reporter

The outcome of ROTC's ban on homosexuals at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be decided in Washington, said Herbert Howe, associate to the chancellor and adviser to the ROTC program here.

"The resolution regarding the ROTC program will depend on the House of Representatives, the Senate and the president of the United States," he said.

The policy that bans homosexuals from all branches of ROTC was established by the Department of Defense, Howe said.

"The policy was created to prohibit homosexuals from serving in the armed forces," he said.

Classes found under military science in the "Undergraduate Bulletin" can be taken by any member of the student body, Howe said. But classes offered to prepare students for a commission in the service are limited to students who are not homosexuals or those who have not disclosed their homosexuality, he said.

Students who have gone public with their homosexuality are not allowed to participate in such activities as summer camps and drills, Howe said.

"Our classes are open to everybody as far as the academic portion goes," said Army Lt. Col. Stephen Goodrich, a military science professor. He declined to comment further on the ROTC ban.

The homosexual ban violates the NU Board of Regents' policy against discrimination. In April 1991, the Academic Senate passed a resolution calling on the Department of Defense to lift the ban. The resolution also recommends that academic credit be removed for ROTC classes and faculty status for ROTC instructors be taken away unless the policy is changed.

ASUN senators passed a bill Wednesday in support of keeping ROTC on campus despite its policy banning homosexuals.

The ASUN bill calls for the Academic Senate to reconsider its resolution because it unnecessarily discriminates against ROTC cadets.


Howe said officials also were concerned about taking academic credit away from ROTC because the defense department was looking for ways to cut its budget.

"If academic credit is eliminated," he said, "the probability of losing one of the organizations within the ROTC program is good."

Howe said he doubted stripping credit from ROTC would make the defense department lift its ban, but time might.

"The same policy that's being used is the same that was used to keep Afro-Americans and then women out of the program," he said.

"At some point, I'm pretty confident that it will change."



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