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The Computing Resource Center is offering free microcomputer seminars to UNL students. The seminars will feature an Introduction to Microsoft Word for the Macintosh and WordPerfect for IBM machines. No reservations are required.

Lab Location

Dates

Times

Advanced Microsoft Word for the Macintosh

Andrews

Tuesday, March 16

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Advanced WordPerfect 5.1 for IBM

Sandoz (IBM)

Wednesday, March 17

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL

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> Open Forum Tuesday, March 16 5:30 pm NE Union (Room Posted)

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(Back row, from left): Ben Harlan, Tanci Cao, Tony Nguyen, Don Brockmeyer, Gary St. Cyr., middle row): Holly Boomer, Ha Tran, Tuon Nguyen, (front row): LaNeisa Dailey, Van-Tho Nguyen, and Trenesa Thompson.

Multicultural office helps students

The UNL Multi-Cultural Affairs Office gives students of all ages the chance for a better education, a UNL official said.

James "Jimmi" Smith, director of the MCA office, said the office focused on three groups: pre-college students, traditional college students and nontraditional students.

"Essentially, we provide support to students of color who are American citizens or permanent residents, so they may achieve their potential education at UNL,

Four major MCA programs are the Minority Assistance Program, Student Opportunities and Services, Upward Bound and the Educational Talent Search.

The Minority Assistance Program is open to U.S. citizens of African, Asian, Hispanic or Native American descent. It provides cultural activities, race seminars, tutors and scholarship opportunities for students.

According to its brochure, the Minority Assistance Program "provides students with experiences that reinforce self-esteem, promotes leadership and encourages involvement on campus and

in the community."
The Educational Talent Search is geared toward junior and se-nior high school students and adults who are economically dis-

advantaged.
Lynda Jenkins, assistant director of the Educational Talent Search, said programs fit each

age group.

"For junior and senior high, we have tutorial, visitations, field trips, culture enrichment and time management and college work-shops," she said. "For adults, we have GED programs, adult workshops — things necessary to get into college."

Jenkins said the Educational

Talent Search program focused

largely on potential non-tradi-tional students. "We want to help adults get

back into college," she said. Student Opportunities and Ser-vices helps students who have problems in classes. The pro-

gram is open to any U.S. citizen or permanent resident, but only 400 students at UNL are involved. The program offers tutoring, academicadvising, financial planning assistance and social activities. In addition, it also offers classes students can take for

credit, such as English, math, educational psychology and uni-versity foundations.

Smith said students involved in the program had a high suc-

"We observed that college Al-gebra 101 gives people the blues — many fail," he said. But 65 to percent of students in the Student Opportunities and Ser

vices program succeed, he said.
"We get students not normally prepared. We get them to succeed. That means something's done correctly. Many avenues open up to them," Smith said.

Upward Bound is a federally funded program for high school students who are potential firstgeneration college students. Its activities include homework help, field trips, scholarship hit tion and summer workshops. Robertson, assistant

Vaughn Robertson, assistant director of Upward Bound, said the UNL chapter worked mostly at Lincoln High and Lincoln Northeast High Schools. The program's chief target is lowincome children.

Robertsonsaid Upward Bound had considerable success at Lincoln schools

"Wehad23 seniors go through the program last year," he said. Twenty-two graduated, and one is still in high school. Eighteen are in some sort of postsecondary training."
But Robertson said students

who went through the program weren't pressured to attend UNL. "This is not an NU recruiting

program, he Postsecondary is the emphasis.

Kids can go anywhere."

Smith said although students might believe that only minorities participated in the multicultural programs, many white students also took part.

"One of the largest user groups is white students," he said. "We believe European students have culture, too, and that they need support. For some time, we have served all kinds of students.

Despite who participates, Smith said the MCA programs succeeded in their goal of getting

students to college.
"We know that in pre-college, we're getting students to go to ostsecondary education two or three times that of their peers, he said

Smith said once the students got to college, they had the po-tential to graduate.

If the university lets you in, we don't question your ability," he said. "If you're here, you can

earn a degree."

But while the programs are successful, Smith said they were threatened by budget cuts.

Robertson said he was wor-

riedthat budget cuts could cripple Upward Bound, which he said

was already deficient in Nebraska.
Only two Upward Bound programs are active in Nebraska;
more than 500 chapters exist nationally.

"We're probably serving less than 10 percent of eligible students," he said.

Jan Calinger is a freshman news-edi-torial major and a Diversions contributor.