

# Technology Park venture creates jobs

By Amie Haggar  
Staff Reporter

## Internships make up part of joint project

Technology Park, a joint venture between UNL and the city of Lincoln, could pay off for students in the form of jobs, officials said.

John Connor, chairman and chief executive officer of Lincoln-based Transcript International, said internships for University of Nebraska-Lincoln students were part of the partnership already in place at Transcript.

Connor said Transcript's 10-acre lot was under construction and scheduled for completion on June 6, when the company will relocate to the area.

Transcript is the first company to announce plans to move into the UNL technology park. Transcript is an international corporation that specializes in providing wireless communication for public safety organizations.

The technology park is a 130-acre area near Superior Street and Interstate 80. Its plans date back to December 1987, when then-UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale and former Mayor Bill Harris conducted a feasibility study for a proposed site.

That study recommended focusing efforts on technology-related business development as a strategy for long-term economic development and job creation in Lincoln.

Mayor Mike Johanns and Chancellor Graham Spanier announced last November that Transcript had signed on as the park's first tenant.

Connor said hiring students for internships had provided a valuable service to Transcript.

"There is a pool of talent in front of us," he said. "Interning allows students the capacity to get things done we might not be able to get done without them."

Stephanie Lauerman, a UNL sophomore international business and finance major, has worked at Transcript for three years.

She said she started working at the company part time when she was in high school, but she decided to use her job as an internship in college.

Lauerman said her experience at Transcript helped her get ahead in her classes.

"I have already handled certain things in my job, and I can understand certain applications better," she said.

Stan Liberty, dean of UNL's College of Engineering and Technology, said students gained experience at Transcript they could not find at the university.

"The students are getting work

experience intermingled with their discipline of study," he said. "It is very motivating."

He said as interns the students had to use not only the knowledge they acquired in the classroom but also their interpersonal skills in order to perform well in a team setting.

"In the classroom you don't necessarily get teamed together in real projects," he said. "There (at Transcript) they have to be able to communicate their ideas with a technical content."

Connor said interns that were engineering majors designed new products and conducted basic-level research. Marketing majors design advertisements for the company, and accounting majors work on accounts receivable and daily accounting tasks.

He said providing UNL students with internships had assisted Transcript in better planning for the future.

"This helps in developing people for our long-term needs. Sometimes we can't hire someone full time, but we can bring a student in for six

months," he said. "I think of it as a development strategy."

Lauerman said interning made her anxious to finish school.

"This makes you want to be done with school and be out in the real world working," she said.

Connor said interning could also provide students with a potential job. He said last year one student intern accepted a full-time position at Transcript, and the company planned to hire one or two students this year.

Lauerman said interning at Transcript was definitely worthwhile.

"I feel like it is time well-spent because I am gaining experience that I can use further down the road in my career," she said.

Liberty said UNL's partnership with Transcript was strengthened through the internships because the company now works with UNL administrators and faculty members in ventures such as research projects.

He said the partnership was advantageous to all involved.

"This is a big win-win situation for everybody," Liberty said.

# Tax consultants can help students

By Melanie Brandert  
Staff Reporter

Students who don't want to file their own federal income tax forms or need help filling them out can find help from local bookkeeping or tax consultant services.

Mark Burch, a tax consultant for Burch and Associates of Lincoln, said his firm already had helped about a dozen college students with their federal income tax forms this year.

Burch said students could get computerized returns, which would enable them to get federal tax refunds in about two weeks.

"The main appeal of electronic filing is the faster turnaround of the refund," he said.

Some students have professionals do their taxes because they have no

time to do it themselves. Others don't understand the forms or simply want to avoid the hassle, Burch said.

Students also want to make sure their taxes are done correctly, he said.

"Some people like the ease and quickness of having someone do it for them," he said. "Others like the assurance of doing it themselves."

College students often go to bookkeeping or tax consultant services instead of a certified public accountant, because consultants cost less and many CPA firms don't offer electronic filing.

Cheryl Kane, tax consultant for H & R Block, said most students filed a short-form 1040EZ or a 1040A.

"Students usually have simple tax returns, and most of them only have part-time jobs," she said.

Kane said the 1040EZ was used by a single taxpayer who records just wages and interest on the tax form. A 1040A, she said, is used by a single or married person who has other forms of income besides wages and interest, such as dividends and distribution of pension.

"The 1040EZ form is not that difficult—you just follow the lines," she said.

Kane said the cost for doing a two-page 1040EZ and the 1040N, the state income tax form, is \$24. Filing the 1040A and the 1040N costs a minimum of \$24.

Each form dictates the charge based on the difficulty of the return. If people need to know the cost of doing a particular form, she said, they can come in for a free estimate.

# Council

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lowed the panel. Jan Rogers, a social studies consultant for Lincoln Public Schools, attended the workshop.

"We need to study from all perspectives," she said. "Not all the material has been tapped."

Rogers said the Winter Council was a turning point for multiculturalism in Nebraska.

"The atmosphere is so conducive

to understanding," she said. "I think it will encourage others to do similar kinds of sharing sessions."

Three different teaching circles constituted most of Saturday's events.

David Smith of the Winnebago tribe led a teaching circle focused on stories about moral endings. Smith said the purpose of the teaching circles was to show that the American Indian culture was different from other cultures.

He said people of the Judeo-Christian belief did not understand American Indian spirituality.

"They don't understand why we want the repatriation of our sacred objects," he said. "We need to bury them because the spirit needs to rest."

Smith, a teacher in American Indian history, said his teaching methods were designed to tell the Indian side of the story.

He said Thanksgiving wasn't the union of Indians and colonists. The colonists were celebrating the murders of 100 Indian men, women and children.

"I was taught wrong," he said. "We need to open people's minds."

# Alcohol

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many fraternities. We're going to try very hard to turn that around."

Spanier said the Knoll incident heightened awareness on campus to the point students were calling administrators with party tips. And the administrators are investigating.

So far this semester, two fraternity house parties have been broken up by surprise visits from Griesen and the UNL Police.

Griesen said officials were following up tips and increasing random inspections.

"The amount of feedback made me think there was far more drinking going on in the greek houses than I had realized, than anyone realized," Griesen said.

While alcohol consumption also goes on in the residence halls, Griesen said, it is not to the extent and does not create the problems of parties in fraternity houses.

University employees, whose charge is to report alcohol consumption, live on every floor of the residence halls. Greek houses operate on an honor system.

He said the living units needed a more equal level of supervision.

Greek house presidents are required to sign a statement promising the chapter will abide by the University Student Code of Conduct in order to be considered sanctioned university housing.

Griesen said some greek houses had been faithful to that pledge, but suspected most hadn't.

He said he sensed willingness on the part of some greek houses to change their reputations, and a few already have changed practices since the Knoll incident.

"I truly believe the greek houses have a positive impact to make," he said, "but I don't believe being a safe haven for illegal drinking is one of them."

UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning said the campus situation was better now than when the drinking age in Nebraska was 19 and 75 percent of the student population could legally consume alcohol.

Still, he said, there's room for improvement.

Manning said greek units had the worst reputation and any change would have to come from within.

"Until they start taking action on

their own ... it will be difficult for anyone on the university campus to do anything about it, short of clearing the houses off campus."

But Griesen said the university was forcing the situation on the students.

He said it was unrealistic to think young people between the ages of 18 and 21 were going to be kept from drinking.

"We treat college students as adults in everything else we do ... then we tell them they can't drink like other adults."

## Drink This

- 75 percent of university and college campuses in the United States are wet campuses.
- 4 percent of college students drink every day.
- 41 percent of college students binge drink.
- College students drink 4 billion cans of beer a year.
- The average college student will consume 34 gallons of alcoholic beverages a year.

Illustration by John Ansoerg

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