

# Teachers vie for regents' seats

By Angie Brunkow  
Senior Reporter

Two Nebraska educators are among candidates hoping to help govern higher education to better serve the entire state.

Marlene Blakeman of Norfolk recently announced she would compete for the NU Board of Regents District 3 seat. Two other candidates are vying for this seat, which will be vacated by Margaret Robinson.

Steve Brennan of Omaha will compete against incumbent Rosemary Skrupa for the District 8 seat. Both candidates said they had education experience inside and outside the University of Nebraska system.

Brennan, who has a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has taught in Omaha, Ralston and Valley high schools during the past 12 years.

Blakeman did post-graduate work at both UNL and the University of Nebraska at Omaha and has 27 years of teaching experience as

an elementary school teacher.

"I have a history of commitment to the field of education, and my aim is to assist in ensuring that the Nebraska university system continues to offer the best possible education for our youth and adults," she said in a press release.

Brennan said he would energize the NU system to best serve the state.

In the past, closed doors, hidden agendas and mismanaged presidential searches have embarrassed the state, he said.

"That has been the norm for the regents," he said.

Politics on the board has cost the state money and national stature, he said.

Because of problems in previous NU presidential searches, the system didn't attract the top candidates in the recent presidential search, Brennan said.

With four seats in contention in this election, however, the leadership for higher education could change dramatically, he said.

"It's time for the new blood," Brennan said.

He said regents should eliminate politics on the board and between Lincoln and Omaha campuses and instead work for the good of the state.

"There's so much more the University of Nebraska can be doing for the state and the student," he said.

One thing the regents should do is to establish an engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, he said.

"If that's what it takes to bring business into Nebraska and into Omaha," he said, "so be it."

Mercedes-Benz and BMW both considered locating plants in Omaha, but decided against it partly because of the lack of educational support in the city, he said.

"The education, the technology, the engineering classes, staff, programs and curriculum all have to be in place as an incentive," he said.

Omaha would be only one of the beneficiaries from such a change, he said.

"If Omaha needs an engineering college to bring in more business, that is going to help the entire state."

# Massengale

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Massengale's intelligence, work ethic and commitment to the university have been widely noted by his colleagues.

"The man worked like a dog, and it rubbed off on everyone around him," says Sen. Scott Moore of Seward, chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee.

NU Board of Regents Chairman Charles Wilson says an 80-plus-hour workweek was commonplace for the president. Wilson calls Massengale's dedication unquestionable.

"I think his drive and work ethic are legendary," Wilson says. He describes Massengale as "a very gracious gentleman (who) remains gracious under fire."

## Accomplishments

Massengale says his administration has accomplished many of its goals.

"We had about four primary objectives when we came in. And I think we've made good progress on those," he says.

"One was to enhance excellence in undergraduate and graduate education. The other was to enhance the research component, and the third was to improve our international programs area. Fourth was to improve in gender equity, and I think we've made some progress in all of those."

He points out specifics:

● **Tightening admissions standards.** "One of the important things I think we've achieved, (Massengale) often talks about his presidency using the pronoun "we," clarifying at one point, "You don't do any of these things yourself; you've got a lot of people working with you." which I was instrumental in promoting and moving, was the new admissions standards, which will take place in 1997. I think that will have a significant impact over a period of time on the university."

● **Improving gender equity.** "Another thing we've done is hire three new chancellors, and two of those are women. They are the first women chancellors in the University of Nebraska, and that is a significant accomplishment in my judgment."

● **Strengthening research.** "We've worked at securing federal funding for the Beadle Center, which you see going up on the Lincoln campus, and also the Epply Institute for the Research of Cancer and Allied Diseases at the medical center."

● **Adopting a fourth campus.** "We oversaw, if you will, the integration of Kearney into the university. ... And I think that went rather smoothly if I do say so, due to the good work of a lot of people."

● **Installing a family leave policy.**  
● **Rewarding excellent teaching.** "We have instituted the universitywide teaching award for faculty, and two of those are awarded each year. We also instituted the departmentalwide award for teaching."

● **Improving the university's outreach and state service.** "I think it's important if you're going to serve the state to know something about the state, and to get out there," he says. "My car isn't yet three years old, and it has 75,000 miles on it. I don't let too much grass grow under my feet."

Massengale also can point to several accomplishments in the 10 years he served as UNL chancellor: improving faculty salaries, playing a major role in the addition of the Lied Center for Performing Arts and the Campus Recreation Center to the UNL campus, and developing freshman orientation and foundations programs to curb the high dropout rate among young students.

## Challenges

Like any president, Massengale has faced some difficult times. During his term, the creation of a new postsecondary education coordinating commission created some stress for the university system.

At times, NU officials said the commission began to govern instead of coordinate.

"Sometimes that's been a little bit of a challenge," Massengale says, "but I think we've worked through it, and it's coming along quite well in my judgment at this point in time."

Terms under which the president came into office — entering the final stages of a nationwide search for an NU president after the regents' dismissal of former president Ronald Roskens — also brought some tension to his job.

"I think Martin came into the job with a lot of baggage," Moore said. "As former chancellor of UNL, other campuses were always afraid he would favor the Lincoln campus. And he came in without the full support of the board, which is always a difficult situation."

## End of an Era

In January 1993, Massengale cited personal and professional reasons for not seeking an extension to his contract.

Though he is leaving the presidency, Massengale does not expect to leave the university or the state — the atmosphere of which, he says, has challenged him to excel and to continue trying to improve conditions around him.

"I love this university, and I love the state of Nebraska, and I think we have some outstanding people in the state," Massengale says. "Hopefully, I've been able to make some contributions, and I still feel that I can make contributions."

Last March, Massengale was guaranteed a UNL agronomy professorship by the regents if he chose to stay in Nebraska.

"I will be trying to hone some of my skills between now and the first of July in terms of faculty development," Massengale said, "and I anticipate going back to the Institute of Ag and Natural Resources at the present time."

Teaching at a senior seminar level is one of the options he is considering, he says, but details of his new job are still being worked out.

Massengale says he has a few regrets about leaving the presidency.

"I guess you always wish you could get more done than you do. I think one of the things facing the institution, is (securing) more resources for the institution."

"But considering the economy and where we are, I think we've done rather well."

He adds: "I would feel more comfortable if we were better funded." Massengale says securing funding for the university will be incoming president Smith's biggest challenge.

Although Massengale says he won't miss the long hours of work that took away from time with his family, he leaves knowing his efforts at improving education have been worthwhile.

"I think, above all, we are trying to give our young people a high-quality education so that when they leave this institution — any of the campuses — they are able to compete with young people that graduated from other institutions."

"And hopefully we can keep them in the state, where they add to our resource base and our human potential, because that is our greatest resource. And if we don't do a good job of quality education, that does not vote well for the long term of the state."

# Emergency phones serve purpose

## False activation is big problem, vandalism is not

By Melanie Brandert  
Staff Reporter

Despite a few snags, UNL Code-blue emergency phones have been serving their purpose.

In cases of robberies, stolen vehicles, assaults, suspicious people and even a needed jump start, UNL police have been able to respond to and aid students who use the emergency phones.

UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning said the phones had helped to give students a sense of security.

"It's the perception of UNL being a safe campus," Manning said. "If students feel safe, that helps."

Manning said parents of new students often asked about the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's safety mea-

sures. The blue phones enable parents to see that measures are being taken to ensure students' safety.

"If there is anything we can do to ensure the safety of our students and faculty, we will do everything we possibly can," he said.

UNL has been very fortunate in that there have been few tamperings with the code-blue phones since their September 1992 installation, Manning said.

Though one unit was spray-painted last semester, few of the new phones have fallen victim to vandalism because they are vandal-resistant, he said.

The new phones' self-contained designs make it difficult to remove their parts, unlike the emergency units previously used on campus. The old phones were sometimes unusable in an emergency because the cords were often cut, Manning said.

He said the biggest problem with the emergency phones had been the number of false alarms, at least 95

percent.

The high percentage has remained constant since the phones were installed, even though the number of calls has decreased from 200 during the first two months of operation to 19 calls last month.

Manning said it was difficult to prevent false alarms. Anyone could activate the speaker and walk away before police could arrive.

However, he said, authorities are educating students and other potential users by explaining the importance of using the code-blue phones correctly, he said.

"People are getting used to them, and as they see the benefits of the public for emergencies, you won't have as many activations," he said.

Bruce Bernt, manager of operator services, said students were taking the phones more seriously.

"At first it was a novelty item to try out, but now students realize it's there for a reason," he said.

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## Drive for blood to begin today

From Staff Reports

The Red Cross and Community Blood Bank will be conducting a blood drive today and Wednesday in the Nebraska Union.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., students, faculty and staff can donate blood in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union.

First-time donors must show proof of Social Security, either with a Social Security or insurance card. They must also fill out a brief medical history.

## TOP 10 REASONS TO TAN

- #10 To say you've been to **Alternative TAN**
- #9 Dave said so!
- #8 To look better than your mate/ best-friend
- #7 Latest tanning products available
- #6 Get the look of an exotic getaway close to home
- #5 Low rates/ Monthly specials
- #4 Extended Hours
- #3 **NEW beds/ MORE beds**
- #2 **NEW LAMPS**
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**When does a date become a crime?**  
**84% of women who were raped knew their assailants.**

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## POLICE REPORT

**Beginning midnight Saturday**  
10:37 a.m. — Injury/sickness, diabetic reaction, one transported to Lincoln General Hospital.  
11:57 p.m. — Window broken, Smith Residence Hall, \$30 damage.  
**Beginning midnight Sunday**  
6:36 a.m. — Accident, Ferguson Hall, \$50 damage.  
3:37 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident, Area 1/2 lot near Cather-Pound-Neihardt tennis courts, \$400 damage.  
9:05 p.m. — Shoes stolen, Harper Residence Hall, \$120 loss.