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James Mehlsing/DN

UNL folks to ride buses for free

Parking Services to help distribute StarTran passes

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Starting this fall, StarTran bus services throughout Lincoln will be free for all UNL students, faculty and staff.

Mike Cacak, manager of transportation services, said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln signed a \$228,000 contract with the city to provide free service to those with a student/staff identity card and a bus pass, which is provided by Parking Services.

The change came after the university allowed its contract with Good Life Coaches bus service to expire, Cacak said. Good Life provided transportation between East and City campuses.

StarTran has added a new route to replace the service between the two campuses.

Cacak said the free StarTran service was more expensive than the contract with Good Life Coaches, because the university would lose \$50,000 in revenue from the 200,000 passengers a year who paid to use the Good Life service. Each passenger had to pay 25 cents to use the service.

But the expanded service was worth the extra money, he said.

"We've had a lot of parents call and say that will make a difference in their decisions (about students bringing a car to school)," he said.

Parking Manager Tad McDowell said students would get a bus pass when they purchased their parking permits. Those who

do not buy a permit can pick up a pass and a StarTran bus schedule at the Nebraska and East unions, he said.

Parking changes

Parking lots on both East and City campuses were paved or resurfaced this summer, and a parking lot north of the Nebraska Union was turned into a green space.

More than \$260,000 worth of asphalt was used to pave four lots: one west of the Lied Center for Performing Arts, one behind the Abel-Sandoz residence hall complex, one at 17th and R streets and a new lot between the Law College and the Barkley Memorial Center on East Campus.

Lots at the southwest corner of 17th and Vine streets and west of Mussehl Hall were resurfaced, he said.

With the resurfacing, striping and crack-filling projects, McDowell said parking services accomplished much, including the creation of new parking spaces.

"Once you stripe a lot and make people park in a certain space, you don't have people parking all over, and you can fit a few more cars in," he said.

Other parking spots were created south of the Beadle Center at 19th and Vine streets, McDowell said.

Paying the bill

Cacak said all the money used for the improvements, including bus services, came from the parking service's money that was budgeted last year.

No money for the projects came from the parking permit fee increases that went into effect this

semester, he said.

A new parking fee plan approved last March changed the rate structure, doubling the cost to park in some lots. The extra revenue from that change was unavailable until July 1, Cacak said.

He said his office must get approval from the NU Board of Regents, the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and the Nebraska Legislature before construction could begin.

Cacak said some projects were delayed for as little as three months and some for as long as nine months while the university got approval for the projects.

"It's not that people are dragging their feet," Cacak said. "It's just the time line."

Attitude change

Parking service officials hope the changes will help dispel rumors of selling too many parking permits and reduce criticism of bad parking conditions, McDowell said.

McDowell said most accusations of overselling were unfair. When people see a full lot, he said, they think the lot must have been oversold. But each permit allows students to choose from several parking lots, he said.

"(People then) get the perception that there is horrible parking on campus," he said.

He said many parking hassles would end if people parked at less crowded lots and used a shuttle service that the university provided.

"I urge people to look at that option rather than waiting in line (for a parking space)," McDowell said.

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Class to teach students learning techniques

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Most students never learn how to learn.

That's where Ken Kiewra comes in. Kiewra, an associate professor of educational psychology, will teach a study skills course, Educational Psychology 109, in the fall.

"There is this assumption that students know how to learn," he said. "And the assumption is so prevalent that some look at a course like this and think it's remedial."

Kiewra was director of the Academic Success Center for five years until it closed last spring because of budget constraints. The center provided academic workshops, studying

tips and tutoring for students.

"If you ever asked any student on campus who really taught you how to learn ... the student would say, 'Well, no one really,'" Kiewra said.

Ed Psych 109 is a continuation of a similar class — which had 13 sections and enrolled more than 300 students — offered through the center. The new class has one section with 50 students enrolled so far.

Students in the new class will be taught methods to manage their time and to write, study and take lecture notes.

"The average student records 30 percent of lecture notes," Kiewra said. "Some freshmen record as little as 10 percent."

Kiewra said research had shown

that students had only a 5 percent chance of recalling information that wasn't in their notes.

"There's a real gap here," he said, "and a lot of students don't recognize that gap."

Even if the notes are there, Kiewra said they still might not be of much good. The outline form used by most students is ineffective, Kiewra said. It forces students to concentrate on individual pieces of information without connecting their relationships, he said.

For the class to be effective, he said, students need to practice what they learn even after the class is over.

Previously, he said, several graduate students were on staff to assist students. Now none are; Kiewra will go it alone.