

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Pep talk



Travis Heying/DN

Miss America 1995, Heather Whitestone, examines her crown while Miss Nebraska Jennifer Love gets a peek. Whitestone, who is almost completely deaf, spoke to a crowd of about 250 in the Union Ballroom Monday night.

## Miss America shares STARry attitude

By Chad Lorenz  
Staff Reporter

Miss America Heather Whitestone has the nation seeing stars.

Her speech, "Anything is Possible," promoted her platform for the STARS program, an acronym for Success Through Actions and Realizations of your dreams.

The University Program Council sponsored Whitestone's speech at the Nebraska Union Monday evening. Two hundred-fifty people attended to hear the hearing-impaired spokeswoman.

The 22-year-old Miss America from Alabama delivered her speech orally while interpreters signed the lecture to deaf members of the audience.

Her STARS program, which she said she developed with help from family and friends, emphasized five points for achieving the

impossible. Each step represented a point on a five-tiered star, she said.

The first point was positive attitude, which, she said, came from her heart and mind.

"My attitude is really important to me," Whitestone said.

The second point was having a dream. Whitestone said education was the key to making most dreams come true.

The third point of her STARS platform was having a willingness to work.

The fourth point was facing up to one's problems. Whitestone said problems shouldn't stop someone from reaching their goals, but teach them.

The fifth point is having a close support team. Whitestone said her family stood by her the most and guided her through her hearing difficulties.

Whitestone said she developed deafness

as a young child. Her doctor prescribed a medication for a serious illness she suffered from at 18 months of age.

The medication damaged her hearing, she said, causing complete deafness in one ear and only 5 percent hearing in the other.

Her mother realized her daughter had hearing problems when she dropped a load of pans on a tile floor and Whitestone continued playing as if nothing happened, she said.

By using her STARS techniques, Whitestone said she improved her ability to communicate and eventually realized a normal life was possible.

Whitestone wants to spread the message for the hearing impaired to overcome their disability, as well.

Whitestone said she travels more than 20,000 miles a month to give her STARS lecture.

## Spanier declines job move

By Jeff Zeleny  
Editor

Chancellor Graham Spanier was being eyed last week as a prime contender for president of the University of Washington in Seattle, the Daily Nebraskan learned Monday.

However, it is believed Spanier turned down the offer, according to sources close to the Washington presidential search.



Spanier

Spanier refused comment to the Daily Nebraskan. He said through a spokeswoman that he would neither confirm nor deny that he was once a candidate for the position. However, Spanier said he is not a candidate now.

"He will not be the next president of the University of Washington," said Phyllis Larsen, UNL director of public relations. "His policy is not to comment on media speculation about his employment status."

NU President Dennis Smith's name appeared on a Washington University list of people who nominated presidential candidates for the university. The list was released to members of the Seattle media through the Freedom of Information Act.

However, Smith told the Daily Nebraskan he did not nominate Spanier for the Washington position and was unaware of such a list.

Spanier came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from Oregon State University in 1991. During his three years in Nebraska, Spanier has promoted what some characterize as a social agenda. He also has been praised for his commitment to diversity and for building a stronger Lincoln campus.

Washington President William Gerberding will retire in June. The search for his replacement, which has been shrouded in secrecy, began about one year ago.

Sources familiar with the search said some candidates were interviewed secretly by UW regents in locations outside Seattle. Those sources said Paul Skinner, chairman of the Presidential Search Committee, interviewed candidates in Idaho and San Francisco.

Spanier's travel itineraries for the last two months list no trips to Seattle. However, he did attend a conference in San Francisco on Feb. 10-13, according to the itineraries.

About two weeks ago, an 18-member presidential search committee said it finished the selection process. But sources said the committee reconvened on March 1, after the status of a top candidate — reportedly Spanier — changed.

See SPANIER on 6

## NU Micron lure threatened by budget reduction

### CorpNet training faces indirect cuts

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Reporter

One of the selling points the University of Nebraska is using to lure Micron to Nebraska is under the threat of being indirectly cut by the Nebraska Legislature.

CorpNet, a program administered by NU providing on-site job training for Nebraska businesses, would be indirectly cut by an Appropriations committee preliminary ten percent reduction in the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications budget. Jack McBride, the general man-

ager of Nebraska Educational Telecommunication Services, said Monday that with the preliminary cut, funds for a more than \$80,000 fiber optic conduit between Lincoln and Omaha would be eliminated.

Along that conduit, he said during budget presentations before the Legislature's Appropriations committee, several programs are transmitted — one of them is CorpNet.

McBride said that the cuts before the committee now were made because there was no other way to continue the business of public tele-

vision and radio.

"We can't rearrange or reallocate," he said.

Lee Jones, NU Provost, testified before the committee, saying that the bill that created the conduit contained language making the bill a high priority for funding. He asked the committee to restore the funds for the conduit.

After the hearing, Jones said CorpNet was definitely one of the selling points NU was using in the Micron deal.

"Without that fiber optics link to Omaha, we wouldn't be able to continue the CorpNet program," he said.

NU Administrators touted the program in a Feb. 22 press conference in Omaha. NU President Dennis Smith said of the university's role in the

Micron deal that it would offer on-site training in chemical engineering, materials processing or any other area the university had expertise.

Nebraska lawmakers have been trying to lure the Idaho-based Micron and its plan to build a \$1.3 billion micro chip plant. The Legislature passed the last of three economic incentive bills Feb. 27 attempting to bring 3,500 jobs to Nebraska.

According to McBride, CorpNet would not be the only educational program to go with the conduit. Several other programs on the conduit essential to Omaha and Lincoln nearly forced the committee to reinstate the funds, he said.

McBride also said that the Nebraska Public Television signal that

originates in Lincoln was sent along the conduit. Without it, Omaha would be without Nebraska public television, he said.

Also on the budget cut list were funds expanding the NEBSAT program.

The program, Jones said, broadcast classes via satellite from all the NU campuses and many of the community and state college campuses to classrooms around the state. He said that the current NEBSAT system was nearing saturation.

The Appropriations committee will hear testimony on the budgets of all state agencies until March 21. After that, the committee will go into executive session to finalize decisions about the budgets.



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