

# Nelson names health consultants

By John Fulwider  
Staff Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson Wednesday named the consulting firm that will help Nebraska streamline its health and human services delivery system.

Three consultants from Deloitte & Touche LLP, a consulting firm with offices in Omaha and Lincoln, will be paid \$150 an hour as part of the Nebraska Health Policy Project. Their pay is capped at \$60,000, plus expenses.

"This is a modest amount for a very major undertaking," Nelson said at his press conference.

The project involves analyzing five state agencies: Health Services, Social Services, Public Institutions,

Aging and Insurance. It will determine how those agencies can work together more efficiently.

Duplication of services is occurring among the agencies, Nelson said. Money would be saved, he said, by eliminating the duplication and consolidating other agency functions.

Lt. Gov. Kim Robak, chosen by Nelson to head the project, said it would help Nebraska use federal block grants better if the grants were passed by Congress.

"When the federal government comes in with block grants, we need to be prepared," she said.

Nelson also expressed concern about Nebraska's budget, which has yet to be addressed by the Legislature. He said his proposed budget, which includes spending cuts, had

been "hatched and ignored" by state senators.

Nelson said he was discouraged by the pace of some bills in the Legislature. But he said he was glad Speaker Ron Withem of Papillion planned to move the crime bill to the top of the agenda soon.

Nelson also addressed the security of state buildings in light of the recent bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City. He said money already had been put into Nebraska's budget to improve security before the bombing occurred.

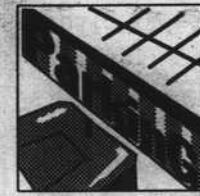
He said no specific incident led to the security improvement.

"We're just watching and acknowledging the danger is there," he said.

# Parking services move

By Tanna Kinnaman  
Staff Reporter

Students who plan to do business with University Parking Services may get a surprise if they go to its office at 1335 N. 17th St.



after May 14 — it won't be there.

The office is relocating to 1941 Y St. It will be open for business at the new address on May 15.

Tad McDowell, parking services manager, said overcrowding at the current location was the main reason for the move. No

plans are being made to change how services are delivered, he said.

"We share office space with the University Police and are bumping into one another," McDowell said.

He said the new location in the old Kingery Construction Co. building was easy to prepare for the move.

"We really only needed to slap some paint on the walls," he said. "We are using existing partitions, desks and other furniture."

Visitor parking spaces will remain about the same, but the office space will increase from about 2,000 square feet to 3,200 square feet, McDowell said.

# Bombing

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In court, U.S. Attorney Randy Rathbun said McVeigh called Nichols from Oklahoma City on April 16 and asked him to pick him up. Nichols, 40, lives in Herington, Kan., about 270 miles north of Oklahoma City.

Rathbun, quoting what Nichols told the FBI after he was taken into custody, gave this account of what happened next:

Nichols picked McVeigh up, and

as the two men drove north, McVeigh told Nichols: "Something big is going to happen."

Nichols responded: "Are you going to rob a bank?" and McVeigh repeated, "Something big is going to happen."

The men reached Junction City, Kan., early in the morning of April 17. The FBI says the Ryder truck used in the bombing was rented in Junction City later that day.

The next day, McVeigh borrowed Nichols' pickup truck and told him,

"If I don't come back in a while, go clean up the storage shed." He returned the truck later that day.

Both McVeigh and Nichols had access to a shed outside Herington that was rented under an alias, Rathbun said. Sources have said tire tracks matching the type of truck used in the bombing were found at the shed.

The bomb exploded the next morning in Oklahoma City.

# Union

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set for 1998.

On March 8, students voted in favor of a student fee increase that would fund the project. The \$20 per-student, per-semester increase would begin in fall 1997.

Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Union, said that increase should stand despite the jump in cost estimates.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said staying at the \$20 increase was the goal, but a moderate increase was possible. In March, estimated numbers were preliminary, he said, and the ballot indicated that "Nothing was really final until we completed the project statement," Griesen said.

The changes came in stages, Swanson said, after facilities management officials increased the estimated inflation on construction costs.

Any project costing more than \$3 million also must be reviewed by a

committee of private architects, he said. Those professionals suggested more attention be paid to the plaza and landscaping costs.

Recalculations in that area, combined with construction, made up most of the increase, Swanson said.

Griesen said another student vote would not be necessary to increase fees. Those decisions are made by the Committee for Fees Allocations. The March vote was taken only to determine if students supported the possible increase, he said.

Swanson said he still believed the project could be funded under the original fee increase.

"I hope that we won't even have to spend all that money," he said. "I think there is a contingency to be conservative (in estimates). Nobody wants to be surprised, so they tend to overstate."

Guessing inflation rates, he said, is just that — guessing. The real numbers won't come in until companies start bidding on the project, he said.

If not enough money is available, Swanson said the bond could be extended from the 20-year payback plan to 25 years, without increasing student costs.

Griesen estimated the total increase in student fees wouldn't be more than \$21. There still are a lot of issues to be settled, he said, including proportioning the debt responsibility between the University Bookstore and the union.

When the union last expanded, an agreement was made that the bookstore would pay a debt service on the space it took over. That amount, he said, has not been finalized.

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education will be asked to review the project next week, Swanson said. Regents will see the issue come up twice more, he said — to appoint an architect in September and again to approve a construction bid in September 1996.

# College

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tend a community college before attending CSU, said Steve MacCarthy, spokesman for CSU.

MacCarthy said community colleges could become a popular alternative in the rest of the country — particularly among politicians.

"A lot of legislatures will see community colleges as a way to keep costs low."

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In Nebraska, the trend toward academic offerings at community colleges is just beginning. Nebraska has 13 community colleges. Twelve offer academic transfer programs, but many of those programs are new.

Southeast Community College in Lincoln began offering its program in January 1994.

Richard Ross, dean of general education at SCC, said the program had been adding about 40 or 50 students each term. He said he expected the program to grow by about 100 people in the fall.

"There's been a higher demand than I thought we would have early on," Ross said.

Ross said he thought more students would be attending community colleges in the future, but it wouldn't become the norm.

"As I walk down the hall I see a younger population than a couple of years ago," Ross said.

A younger population at SCC runs hand-in-hand with what is going on at UNL.

John Beacon, director of scholarships and financial aid at UNL, said the transfer enrollment at the university was growing.

The majority of those students are

## The community college connection

An increasing number of students are choosing to attend two-year colleges before completing their degrees at four-year institutions. California's community college system is considered the nation's premier program.

■ More than 1.35 million students attend California's 106 community colleges.

■ In the 1993-94 school year, the California State University system had 44,454 community college transfer students, compared to 22,035 incoming freshmen.

■ Community colleges in California are open to all high school graduates.

DN graphic

coming from community colleges, Beacon said.

Beacon said the number of community college transfers had been growing for several years, but he didn't see Nebraska moving toward a California-like situation.

"I think we're less likely to move in that direction because of the nature of our community colleges," Beacon said.

Many of Nebraska's community colleges still have vocational/technical programs as their main emphasis, Beacon said.

However, Beacon said, rising education costs probably will spur parents and students to give more consideration to community colleges for the savings.

However, that shouldn't necessarily mean a community college is the answer, he said.

"Parents and students need to look at some of the hidden costs of a community college," Beacon said.

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