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Undergraduate research emphasis of Great Plains Honors Conference

BY ANN MARY LANDIS
 Staff Reporter

John Janovy spent Friday evening telling his audience what most of them already knew: Undergraduate research has no substitute.

Janovy, professor of biological sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, reminded about 200 honors students and faculty members of the merits of research. His audience came from six states to present research projects for the Great Plains Honors Conference last weekend.

The fact that students had completed projects was an important lesson in itself, Janovy said, as he stressed the importance of students finishing what they start.

Gwen Ericson, academic adviser for the honors program at St. Louis University, said she agreed.

"For the students, (research is) really an important opportunity to do something where they're forced to put something together," she said.

Janovy said research has different advantages from knowledge gained in a lecture hall. Education is achieved, he said, not spoon fed.

"They learn how to generate knowledge rather than accept. They learn how to contribute to the world's knowledge," Janovy said.

He called the students "the intellectual leaders of the nation" and "the hope of the future."

Jennifer Nolte, a student at Southeast Missouri State College, said she wasn't as interested in contributing to the world's knowledge as she was in satisfying her own curiosity.

"You learn for yourself, and because you're doing it for yourself, you know you're interested in it," said Nolte, a sophomore psychology

major.

Janovy said research provides lessons that he and other college instructors can't teach.

"(Researchers) have learned to do something on their own," he said. "They've learned something I can't teach. These are permanent lessons."

"When you do research, you know you're learning things you can't learn in a classroom."

Research can help scientists realize their limitations as well, Janovy said, because it's the only way to learn that some problems can't be solved.

Some students at the conference said they wanted to use research to help them further their academic careers.

"Anytime you do any sort of research," Nolte said, "graduate schools are going to look at it. You've got a little bit of an edge."

11AM lunch on the green, TWISTER & PEPSI ball!

1 PM READY, SET, VOLLEYBALL PLAY-OFFS

3 PM BAND-full-clip

4 PM SINGLED OUT

5 PM BAND-indigenous

6 PM c'et la vie -it's all over

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2

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UNL could improve climate

CLIMATE from page 1

Crump said, it is obligated to meet requirements proposed by the civil rights office. The university's federal funding is not in jeopardy, however.

Administrators and selected faculty members, students and staff who will have the next two weeks to draft a plan detailing proposed measures to improve the three areas the civil rights office noted.

For civil rights policy, Crump said, the investigators called for a range of punishments for someone who violates the university's anti-

discrimination rules.

The civil rights office said investigations of possible racial harassment must be completed faster and reported to the affirmative action office more than the current annual reports.

The office said students, faculty members and staff also should undergo some kind of diversity training, something Okubanjo said would help ease UNL's racial tension.

Because many UNL students come from small, mostly white towns, Okubanjo said, the university needs a program to help expose those students to minorities.

Faculty members, though, are the most important link in the diversity chain, he said.

Teachers using examples that include minorities and women will help students realize the importance of diversity in their lives, Okubanjo said.

The three targeted areas, along with the university's continuing work on its diversity plan, will help create the more-welcome environment UNL should be, Crump said.

"It's a concern to me," Crump said, "if as an institution of higher ed, that we're looking at being about not just intellectual pursuits, but making sure we have a good,

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