



U.S. EDUCATION SECRETARY Richard Riley, left, greets University of Nebraska President Dennis Smith during Saturday's dedication of the Peter Kiewit Institute in Omaha.

KELLI KELLOGG/DN

Peter Kiewit Institute dedicated in Omaha

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including the whole state of Nebraska in its campus.

Paul Seaburg, associate dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at UNL, agreed.

"I think (UNL) will be very proud of the things we do here in Omaha in our new building and with the funds that have been given to us," he said.

While providing many students an opportunity to receive a degree in technological fields, the institute also will show the benefits of a partnership between the academic and business worlds, said Thomas McClung, interim dean of the College of Information Science and Technology at UNO.

"It's really unique because of the collaboration and the strong, strong commitment of business and industry," McClung said.

Along with providing funding for the institute, many businesses such as IBM and Boeing will provide support for the program.

One example is the funding of the Experts-in-Residence program, which

"Without opportunities like this, (stopping brain drain) becomes nearly an impossible endeavor."

GOV. MIKE JOHANNIS

will bring executives from high-tech companies to spend a year teaching and mentoring students.

By utilizing its business and academic partnerships, Walter Scott Jr., chairman of the board of policy advisers at the Kiewit Institute, said the program has great potential.

"It's our goal to make the Kiewit center one of the top 10 in its field," Scott said. "I think we're off to a great start."

Moeser outlines goals for university

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year graduation rate from 50 to 60 percent by 2006.

Moeser reported that UNL was on its way to fulfilling both goals. Increasing retention and graduation rates helped propel UNL's ranking in the annual review of national universities by U.S. News and World Report. Falling to the third tier last year, UNL was placed among second-tier schools in this year's edition.

The report also placed UNL on the list of the top 48 universities that

provide an affordable education.

While the reallocation of funds is a stark reality for many, Moeser urged faculty and staff to do more and "build a culture of excellence."

This means establishing meaningful relationships between students and faculty members, continuing to reverse the brain drain and supporting the Honors Program.

Along with improving the learning community and increasing research, Moeser said it was necessary to reach out to rural Nebraska communities that have aging populations and dwindling economic

resources.

Staying committed to diversity also is important, he said. The Faculty Liaison Task Force on Diversity will continue its work this year, and funds have been reallocated to support the Diversity Enhancement program, Moeser said.

With UNL's faculty and staff working toward fulfilling these goals, the financial shortages the university has been facing will slowly ease, Moeser said.

"The good news is that the same plan that moves us to financial stability also moves us toward excellence."

Welcome offers involvement

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5,000 freshman.

He said about 3,000 community members attended.

Students took advantage of free pizza, sandwiches, ice cream and candy while stuffing Frisbees, koozies, pens, pencils, magnets, T-shirts and fliers into their plastic bags.

"All the stands are helpful," said Lizzie Fraser, a freshman from Omaha. She also thought the free items were a "good way to get lots of people to come."

Students who have been through the Big Red Welcome before also took advantage of the day.

"I came down here to see the different types of involvement offered, clubs, free stuff and whatnot," said Tyler Levey, a junior communications major from Omaha.

Among the most popular booths included Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity's dunking booth, which it used to encourage recruitment.

The Agriculture Education Club and UNL's FFA Alumni co-sponsored putt-putt golf because "we thought it

would be an activity that would make people stop by," said Megan Patent, president of the Agriculture Club.

Other popular booths included the voter registration booth, manned by Anita Fussell, a Lincoln resident. As students left the welcome convocation at the Lied Center they were greeted with the booth.

"We're having a big flurry of registration," Fussell said.

Students also had a chance to show off their basketball skills at a booth operated by Athletic Marketing.

"Everybody thinks they can shoot. Everybody is a player," shouted Coach Randy Roth, who was running the Athletic Marketing basketball free-throw competition.

Kettlehut began planning the welcome about a year ago by sending letters to past participants and all student organizations. Booths were filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All NSE members helped set up, worked water stations, cleaned up and ran information booths.

Student organizations got their booths for free, and non-profit community groups and businesses paid a fee.

"As for the weather, I'd rather have the possibility of a few sprinkles than being 100 degrees outside."

ANGIE KLEIN
NSE member

Morning radio station show host Brady Goodman from The Point radio station, 104.1 FM, said he came to Big Red Welcome because of its exposure and to increase the number of listeners.

Angie Klein, NSE member, said the day was fun for NSE leaders because they were able to see the freshmen they helped over the summer.

"As for the weather, I'd rather have the possibility of a few sprinkles than being 100 degrees outside," she said. "At least it makes my job of filling waters not so bad."

Big Red Express Band Auditions

August 24, 25 & 26

Audition registration at the Band Office, 101 Westbrook Music Building.

The Big Red Express plays for all home volleyball, men's and women's basketball games. Auditions are open to all academically eligible university students. Usual band instrumentation plus lead guitar, keyboard and bass guitar. Successful candidates receive a stipend. Call the Band Office at 472.2505 for more information.

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Information Table:
9 am - 3 pm
Wednesday, August 25
Student Union