

Hispanic students, UNL officials meet, share ideas

■ **Inspired by a program at UNK, the meetings give UNL students a forum to voice their concerns.**

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

Two percent of UNL students are Hispanic, and members of that percentage are taking strides to make their voices heard.

The U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute sponsored the Collegiate Leadership Development Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this semester.

The program is aimed at promoting dialogue and interaction between Hispanic students and key university

officials.

Over the past six weeks, a group of Hispanic students has been meeting with various university officials including the chancellor, the director of housing and deans of various colleges.

The three-hour sessions began on Sept. 27 and ended Monday.

Jimmy Hynes, a freshman biology major, said the program was a valuable experience.

"I wanted to be a more active leader on campus," he said. "This program really helped me get to know people in different offices, so when I need a contact, I know who to talk to."

Hynes said he was surprised he was able to share his opinion on matters that affected the university.

"I was able to tell people like the chancellor what I thought," he said. "This program was great because I was able to make my voice heard."

Juan Izaguirre, a senior social science education major, said the Hispanic students involved with the program made valuable ties with prominent UNL faculty.

"The program was rewarding to the faculty and the students," he said. "The faculty was able to hear what we thought, and the Latino students were able to learn the ropes of the university."

Izaguirre said it was important to know who the top officials on campus are, so the students could go straight to the top official if they had a problem.

"Everyone greeted us with a positive attitude and commended us for starting the program," he said.

The university officials and the Hispanic students spent much time talking about recruitment of minority students, Izaguirre said.

The officials asked what they could

do differently to make Latino students want to come here, Izaguirre said.

"Now they know Latino students care, and that is valuable for everybody."

Izaguirre said the idea for the program originated at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Some Hispanic students went to UNK to observe the program and eventually brought the idea to UNL.

Six to eight students were then chosen to take part in the weekly meetings.

Carlos Guerrero, a freshman chiropractic care major, said he joined the program to learn just how committed UNL is to diversity.

"There are a lot of sections that do try to incorporate minority students and faculty, but some have no minorities," he said. "They say they are trying to change, so we gave them input on how we'd like to see them change."

Guerrero said the group had a positive influence on most of the people it talked with.

"People seemed to better understand the Hispanic point of view after the sessions," he said.

Hynes said the group will have one final meeting Monday to determine what its next steps should be.

"We're just going to bring all of the information we received together and make a decision on what needs to be done," he said. "We need to make a difference, so now we just need to figure out how to do that."

Hynes said the program was rewarding on many levels.

"It was one of the best experiences I've had on campus," he said. "I would encourage the other minority groups on campus to look into developing some kind of program like this for themselves."

Mortar Board members honor their inspirations

BY MARGARET BEHM
Staff writer

Elementary school teachers, parents and University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty are some of the people students chose to thank for their inspiration Tuesday night.

Members of the Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society brought the people in their life who inspire them to the fifth annual People Who Inspire Banquet in the Nebraska Union.

"Tonight's goal is to honor the people who have made an impact on our lives and to say thanks," said Mortar Board President Christy Jensen, a senior agribusiness major.

Randy Stotler, a senior water science major, chose his fourth and fifth grade teacher, Merry Witzki, as his guest. He has kept in touch with her since elementary school, occasionally calling her to inform her about how he's doing.

"She had a big impact on my life when I was younger," Stotler, a Mortar Board member, said. "She was the first person to get me involved in academic extra-curricular activities."

Kristie Baack, assistant director of Student Involvement, said she gains strength when she sees students inspired.

"Students inspire me," Baack said. "I absolutely love watching students get new ideas. I like seeing the light bulb go on in their head. They encourage me to keep striving."

Baack asked the honored guests to say who inspired them to inspire others. Teachers, family and spouses were some of the people named.

Students gave short speeches about their guest and explained why they chose them.

Chanda Miller, a senior international studies and political science major, honored her mother, Mary Ann Coupland. Her mother's accomplishments have inspired Miller to strive to reach her own goals.

Miller was grateful for the opportunity to thank her mother. She encouraged other students to let the people who have made a difference in their lives know their impact.

"It's especially important to thank the people who have inspired us before we graduate," Miller said. "We are about to achieve our greatest accomplishment of our lives so far, and we should thank them for helping us achieve our goals."

Faculty guests such as Reshell Ray,

“*Tonight's goal is to honor the people who have made an impact on our lives and to say thanks.*”

CHRISTY JENSEN
Mortar Board president

assistant director of Student Involvement, agreed students should give recognition to people who have helped them.

"It inspires us to continue working with students, because we know that our efforts are beneficial," Ray said. "That makes me want to continue to inspire other students."

Special guest John Janovy Jr., a 1998 honorary member, said some of the best inspiration he gets is from seeing students succeed.

"Watching students move through the system and move on to be successful is why I'm in this occupation," Janovy said.

Ray was happy to know she inspired senior LaTonya Floyd to achieve her goals.

"After watching her grow and develop into a student leader, it is very heartwarming to know that I inspired her," Ray said. "I'm very thankful that the Lord allowed me to be in her life."

CORRECTION

The City Council considered one ordinance to change the sizes of fast-food restaurant drive-thru signs at its Monday meeting. The ordinances were miscounted in a story in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan.