

Program to encourage undergraduate research

By Cara Pesek
Staff writer

A new program geared toward sophomore and junior undergraduates is in the works at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Undergraduates in the Creative Activities and Research Experience program will encourage students to "learn by doing," said Richard Edwards, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, in a news release.

The program, which is co-sponsored by Academic Affairs and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, encourages not only research, but also creative activity, said David Brinkerhoff, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Brinkerhoff said he thinks this idea will open the program to students in all areas of study.

"We anticipate it will be a university-wide program," Brinkerhoff said.

UCARE, funded by income from the Pepsi Endowment, is organized as a two-year program,

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Andy Schuerman
ASUN president

and students can become involved either as sophomores or juniors.

With sponsoring faculty members, students will work for one year as research assistants. This experience will help the students learn how and why the faculty members do research and creative activities.

In the second year, students will work on projects they have selected. These projects can be an extension of the first-year projects or related to the first year's experience.

The faculty members will continue to oversee the projects and work as mentors for the undergraduate researchers during the second year of the program.

Brinkerhoff said a number of colleges and universities across

the country already have similar programs in place. He also said such a program is important at a research institution like UNL.

ASUN President Andy Schuerman agreed that the program is important for the university. He said he hopes it will help students feel connected to UNL.

"Not only does this give students a chance to work more deeply in their fields, it also gives them a chance to work more closely with the faculty," Schuerman said.

Applications will be available by the end of January. Schuerman said he hopes students take the time to apply.

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Johanns cuts request in half

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years, Johanns said.

The regents made the health care request after last year's budget was finalized, so it couldn't be added, Johanns said. Budgets are decided biannually, and the next budget will be set in 2001 for 2001-03.

Increased health care costs have just started to become noticeable, so the regents were unable to make their request for the 1999-01 set budget, Blank said.

Johanns said the room for budget adjustments this year was tight, and the regents' request was something that didn't need to be resolved immediately.

"This isn't an absolute 'no.' We need to decide if (the regents' request) is something we can solve over time," Johanns said.

Blank said he sympathized with Johanns. "He has a whole array of demands for the state budget, and he's expected to keep the state spending down," Blank said.

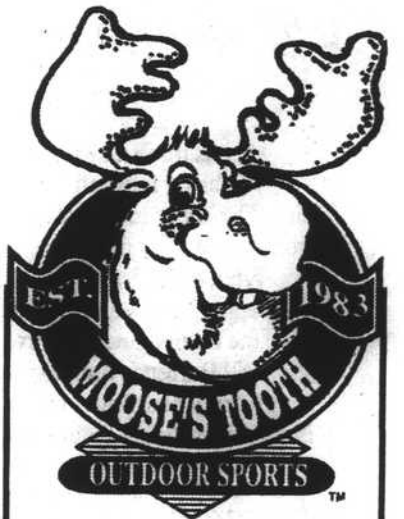
Blank said he thought the regents' request was legitimate, but the board will have to make do with whatever it gets.

Miller also said he understood the governor's decision.

"Obviously the governor can't fund all the requests, so I understand and support his position," Miller said.

Senior editor Lindsay Young contributed to this report.

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Sen. Kerrey talks about nuclear arms

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finances to keep its nuclear weapons properly functioning, Steinbruner said. But it keeps the missiles on Rapid Reaction Alert for one reason - to keep up with the United States.

A rocket launch was once interpreted by Russia's inadequate missile detection equipment as a nuclear attack on Russia, James said, so it is easy to see how an accidental missile launch could take place.

Furthermore, Kerrey said, feelings of anger because of the poor economy and political problems could trigger a terrorist attack.

Talks between U.S. and Russian diplomats regarding nuclear dangers aren't going well, panelists said.

So, they encouraged students to get involved at a grassroots level, writing letters to their senators and representatives, for example, to voice their feelings on nuclear policy.

"It is in your interest to be interested," Steinbruner said. "It is a massive accident waiting to happen, and I think it is fair to say that if it isn't turned around during your lifetimes, it will happen."

McMahon said students who attended the discussion interested in nuclear weapons issues can check out the Web site www.stimson.org where information about Tuesday's discussion will be posted.

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