

# Design department receives national prize

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**Rita Kean**  
human resources and family science  
interim dean

**By Margaret Behm**  
Staff writer

An award given to UNL's textiles, clothing and design department has helped recruit more students and has paid for technology that will prepare graduates for future jobs.

Rita Kean, interim dean of human resources and family science, accepted the award for excellence and \$3,000 from the American Textile Manufacturers Institute at the annual conference of the International Textile and Apparel Association in Santa Fe, N.M., in November.

"This award recognized the excellence of our program in teaching, research and design," Kean said.

The award has shed light on the department, she said.

"The announcement of this award drew attention to our department because this is the highest design

award," Kean said.

It has also helped recruit more students to the textiles, clothing and design department, Kean said.

"This award has an important impact because students know that they could be majoring in the department that just won this award," Kean said.

Winning the award also indicates that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln department's faculty has gained prestige, Kean said.

"Our faculty is well known nationally and internationally for their work in the areas of textile science, merchandising and design," she said.

And because of the program, students can easily find employment, Kean said.

"Most of our students are in high demand," Kean said. "They are employed before they graduate. Textiles is a growing industry in

Nebraska."

Patricia Crews, department chairwoman, said the award money would be used to purchase computer software that is used by the apparel industry.

"The new software will help students develop necessary skills that are sought after by the design industry," said Crews.

"It will be extremely beneficial to students."

The award also recognized all of the members of the department for their work in the field, Crews said.

Kean said she is proud of the department not only because of the award but because many graduates have gone on to high-ranking jobs in the textiles and apparel industry.

"Recognizing that a Midwest school has produced graduates that have made significant contributions to the field of textiles and apparel is really quite something," Kean said.

## LEGISLATURE

### Bills against smoking fail in Legislature

**By Gwen Tietgen**  
Staff writer

Smokers were spared two possible adjustments to their lifestyles for at least one year as two bills failed to advance in the Legislature.

The two senators who proposed the bills said they may revisit the bills in the future.

LB505, introduced by Sen. David Landis of Lincoln, would have increased the tax on a pack of cigarettes to \$1, an increase of 66 cents.

On Jan. 12, Landis compromised by offering an amendment that would have added 30 cents, making the tax 64 cents. The amendment failed by two votes, so he pulled the bill.

The bill is now indefinitely postponed, said Laurel Marsh, legislative aide for Landis.

Landis said he has not announced any immediate plans and isn't going to advertise his strategies for the bill.

LB750, introduced by Sen. Nancy Thompson of Papillion, would have allowed smoking only in restaurants that had a separate bar area. The bill failed to advance to select file, which is one of the last steps before it can become a law.

"We need to realize the impact of secondhand smoke," Thompson said. "There are dangers to both the public and the employees who work there."

Doug Koebernick, Thompson's legislative aide, said next year Thompson will introduce a similar bill, but she's unsure about bringing it up again this year.

Sen. Adrian Smith of Gering said he opposes LB750.

"My personal feelings would say vote for it because I hate smoke, but I believe the banning of a legal product on public property is a violation of a person's civil liberties," Smith said.

Smokers at UNL had mixed reactions to each bill.

Smoker David Dinh, a sophomore international business major, said he didn't mind smoking being banned away from the bar area in restaurants.

"But the tax on cigarettes is a bad thing because then just one pack of cigarettes will cost over \$4," he said.

"Though it might deter some people from smoking, most people will probably just pay more."

Dennis Reese, a junior biological sciences major, agreed.

"I can accept the smoking ban in restaurants," he said. "I didn't start smoking until I was 18, so I know what being a non-smoker is like."

"(Legislators) continue to increase taxes on cigarettes while overlooking taxes on alcohol. Alcohol causes just as much damage, and nothing is said about alcoholism and the education of domestic abuse."

Angela Ries said if cigarette taxes were raised that much, then she would probably quit.

"It's a good idea, and it might work for the young smokers but probably not for adult smokers," said Ries, a freshman general studies major.

"I don't think it's really necessary to smoke in restaurants. It's a good idea, but there is going to be a lot of people complaining."

Lora Meyers, a junior psychology major, said though smoking in restaurants was banned in California, she didn't see it happening in Nebraska anytime soon.

"Personally, I would be sad because restaurants are one of the few places smoking isn't banned already," Meyers said.

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