

**ON THE COVER**

David Clasen/DN  
 Otto Kuck leans out to shake his son Gary Kuck's hand as he enters the Haymarket as he enters a checkpoint of the Great Race sponsored by the History Channel.

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# UNL, state tribes join forces to increase representation

■ **Steering committee convenes to establish plan to bring more American Indian students and faculty to UNL.**

By Jill Zeman  
 Staff writer

A group of about two dozen people met last Tuesday with a common goal: to build a solid relationship between the university and the state's American Indian tribes.

A steering committee, comprised of University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty members, tribal members and representatives from two of the state's tribal colleges, met for the first time, at Chancellor James Moeser's request.

The group discussed and brainstormed ideas to increase the American Indian student and faculty population at the university, said Michelle Waite, assistant to the chancellor for community relations.

"We want to utilize our expertise and find out how we can help," she said.

The committee targeted three issues affecting American Indians, which include recruiting and retaining native students and faculty, promoting tribal economic development and cooperating with tribal colleges to expand distance education, she said.

Paul Olson, a UNL English professor and member of the committee said the partnership is significant because it is the first time a formal relationship has been established with the university and the state's tribal colleges.

The tribal colleges are small and have limited financial resources while the university has a low American Indian population, Olson said.

"We need each other," he said.

The partnership will allow UNL graduate students to participate in internships and projects at the tribal colleges and reservations, he said.

"We need to give students more experience in environments where white people aren't the majority," he said.

This is significant because a system for transfer credits and recruitment can be created for UNL and the colleges.

"It should save the state

money in terms of getting an educated group of young people to lead on the state's reservations," he said.

But the partnership does not just deal with recruiting students to UNL, as Waite said the group will focus on improving the high school graduation rate for the state's tribes.

"We're not just looking at university issues," she said.

"To get them here, we've got to get them to graduate high school."

The committee will begin to tackle that by focusing on certifying American Indian teachers and encouraging them to stay on the reservation and teach, she said.

Waite said she hopes the committee will meet with UNL interim chancellor Harvey Perlman in the fall to discuss future plans.

News of the committee has drummed up more faculty interest so the committee may expand into several subcommittees, Waite said.

"I think this partnership can build some bridges and facilitate discussion on important issues," she said.

"It's a step in the right direction."

## Moeser names Jones' replacement

From Staff Reports

It still needs approval from the NU Board of Regents, but UNL's next vice chancellor of business and administration figures to be Cleveland State University import Christine Jackson, Chancellor James Moeser announced Tuesday.

If approved, Jackson will be replacing Melvin W. Jones, who died last September, Moeser said. Jackson's responsibilities as chief financial official at CSU included long-term policy planning and budget making. Her role at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be similar.

"The vice chancellor for business and finance must have excellent skills in dealing with financial, personnel, planning and campus safety issues," said

*"Throughout her career, Chris has demonstrated those abilities. I can't think of anyone I would rather see leading this vital area at UNL."*

**James Moeser**  
 UNL chancellor

Moeser, who is leaving UNL this summer to take a position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "In fact, anything dealing with the campus' human, financial and physical resources - as well as a thorough understanding of the university's academic mission."

"Throughout her career, Chris has demonstrated those abilities. I can't think of anyone I

would rather see leading this vital area at UNL."

Said Jackson of her new role: "The kind of talents I have might be a match with what they were looking for. I'm the kind of person who works well with people and organizations and I try to keep projects moving forward. Working with the academic community is one of my main strengths."

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