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**14th & P**



# NU President Smith testifies for Web teaching network

By Kate Grafel

Staff Writer

In an effort to further the Congressional Web-based Education Commission's development of online distance education policy, University of Nebraska President L. Dennis Smith testified July 19 about a proposal that has been in the works for six years.

Smith presented a plan for a network of training facilities that would be known as the National Centers for the Use of Information Technology in Education (NCITE).

"The development of NCITE at strategic locations across the country would provide the facilities needed by both public and private post-secondary institutions, as well as by the K-12 sector," Smith said in his testimony.

Smith said that according to NU's Distance Education Council, faculty members are reluctant to incorporate technology into their courses because of their own lack of technological education.

The proposed centers would have the following functions:

- Research into how students best learn through computer-based courses.
- Research into how such courses should be structured.
- Training for teachers on all levels in how to make use of tech-

*"This proposal would be very powerful if there were a number of universities coming together."*

**Janet Poley**

president, American Distance Education Consortium

nology in the classroom.

■ Training for post-secondary educators in how to design and deliver effective computer-mediated courses.

■ Cooperation among institutions of higher education in developing state-of-the-art courses.

Janet Poley, president of the American Distance Education Consortium, said NCITE is only one of many such ideas.

"This proposal would be very powerful if there were a number of universities coming together," Poley said.

ADEC serves a similar function as the proposed NCITE.

ADEC is a group of 60 major state universities and land-grant colleges, which together offer an online catalog of hundreds of courses. Poley said they also train faculty and work on policies.

While some courses are offered by more than one individual school, Poley said that "an increasing number of courses are developed by universities working together."

Poley has team-taught Mass Media and Government with UNL broadcasting professor Larry Walklin. Currently Poley is also a student of Pennsylvania State University, taking an online Web master training course through ADEC.

"I really think that people who are making statements about distance education," Poley said, "ought to have taught via distance education and even been a student via distance education."

Although thousands of courses, as well as high school diplomas and college degrees, are currently offered online, Smith said there are still two issues that need to be dealt with: intellectual property rights and the relatively high cost of Web-based education.

As for intellectual property rights, Smith said, "some serious academic and legal work needs to be done in this area."

Smith said the problem of cost will require cooperation between institutions as well as federal and state funding.

## Downtown July Jamm starts today

From staff reports

A trip downtown this weekend may seem out of the ordinary as Lincoln will be transformed into a mecca of music, art and food for July Jamm 2000.

The ninth annual festival, produced by the Updowntowners, will feature 34

hours of music on two stages, along with exhibits from 16 artists, said Randy Hawthorne, Updowntowners president-elect.

Patrons will get a taste of jazz, blues and reggae music as well as a chance to try a variety of food, including Greek, Indian and Asian delicacies from the festival's 13 vendors, he said.

For the art connoisseur, there

will be exhibits showcasing paintings, photography, sculpture and jewelry, Hawthorne said.

The music begins 5:00 tonight and ends 12:30 a.m. Eight bands will perform Friday, with shows running all day from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. The festival will wrap up Saturday with performances from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Hawthorne said.

Featured bands include the Rumba Club, Roy Gaines, Deanna Bogart, Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, Sista Monica and Walter "Wolfman" Washington, he said.

Hawthorne said he was looking forward to this year's event because it will run Thursday through Saturday, rather than Friday through Sunday, as it has in the past.

"There's a lot of new and exciting things," he said.

Proceeds from the event will benefit downtown Lincoln, he said.

## Summer Daily Nebraskan

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Questions? Comments?

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