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New Student Enrollment

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**New Student Enrollment
June 25, 2002
Nebraska Union
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR**

Good morning! It is my very real pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I want to welcome you to the entire campus, which includes both the City Campus where we are today and the East Campus – famous for its beauty and the university ice cream store!

As a student here you are becoming an important part of the University of Nebraska family, with many exciting challenges and opportunities ahead of you. In fact, often these challenges and opportunities are both sides of the same coin.

You're entering a challenging educational environment, and the opportunities which are in front of you are almost indescribable – opportunities for intellectual and personal growth, opportunities to explore new ideas, opportunities to work with your professors, to discover new knowledge, to attend cultural events such as plays, concerts and recitals at special student prices – and don't forget to keep an eye out for those that are free, too.

As you make your way through your academic years here you'll have the opportunity to meet and know people who are different from you – people from different parts of the nation and from different parts of the world, people who have

different views, different ideas, and different ways of being. You'll have the opportunity to celebrate differences while exploring similarities.

There is so much you can do and that you can be at the University of Nebraska, if you will.

X Your time at UNL will be much like any time in your life – how much you get out of it will depend almost totally on how much you put into it. I urge you to be an active member of the University community. Get to know your professors. Get to know your classmates. Join a student club. Find people with whom you're comfortable – and people with whom you're not. Get a student job on campus. You'll learn a great deal from all of your activities, and sometimes what you'll learn will surprise you!

Reach out to people who challenge you, as well as to people who applaud you. Applaud others. Value their gifts and your own gifts. You have a priceless opportunity here to make connections and build relationships that will last you all your life, and from the miles I've already traveled down the road ahead of you, I can tell you this morning that that is highly important.

Please relish all the knowledge and new experiences available to you at the University of Nebraska. Make sure you learn how to learn, so as a lifelong learner you're prepared for whatever comes your way. Life really isn't about repeating what someone has told you; life is about taking the knowledge you already have and

the knowledge you will acquire, and the knowledge you are seeking, and putting it all together in ways that make sense for you. This great university is a place to build those learning and life skills that will see you successfully through your career, not just those that prepare you for your first job. Remember that you're coming to this great land-grant university not only to learn how to earn a living, but also to learn how to live the rest of your life.

Oh, and one more thing. If you have a question, ask. That's what learning is all about. And that's what we're here for. Enjoy!

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