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National Science Foundation - 4-H Robotics Grant Announcement

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Dr. John C. Owens, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor
National Science Foundation – 4-H Robotics Grant Announcement
Friday, December 5, 2008 – 3:30 p.m.

Bullets for announcement of the nearly \$2.5 million grant to 4-H from the National Science Foundation to take its robotics curriculum national.

1. Just so pleased to be here today to celebrate this exciting news. Nebraska 4-H, part of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, had 135,000 youth participating in its 4-H programming last year. That's one in three of the age-eligible youth in Nebraska. Our 4-H program is a leader in per capita participation in 4-H in our country. 4-H provides young people the opportunities both to learn and to develop skills for life, such as critical thinking, confidence, teamwork, and responsibility. I am very proud of our 4-H program here in Nebraska.

2. Over the next five years the Nebraska 4-H Robotics and GPS/GIS scale-up project will provide immersive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics experiences for more than 4,800 youth across the nation. You may hear Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics referred to by its acronym, STEM. Each youth will participate in two summer camp experiences as well as meet in 4-H club and after-school programs during the academic year. These experiences will help prepare youth with the skills and knowledge needed for the 21st century workplace.

3. Hundreds of informal educators and volunteer leaders will participate in project-facilitated on-line, face-to-face, and self-directed learning experiences to support youth in the summer camps and club meetings.

4. The University of Nebraska, through a collaboration involving ~~the~~ University of Nebraska-Lincoln, ^{the} Peter Kiewit Institute, and ~~the~~ University of Nebraska at Omaha faculty, will design and manufacture the "first" low-cost educational robotics platform that "integrates" GPS and other technologies "enabling" youth to experience "how" divergent-technology systems "work together" in the 21st century workplace.

5. This is such an exciting project, and a real opportunity to increase Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics "learning experiences" and knowledge for our youth. This type of knowledge is critical to the forward movement of our nation. Through this project youth can gain the confidence to "know" they can indeed "do science" - and enjoy it. We look forward to the progress of this project with great enthusiasm, and are so pleased to be here today to celebrate this grant.

Prem Paul - Vice Chancellor
Resident Economic Development