

2008

Alumni Advisory Council Presentation - Wick Alumni Center

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Alumni Advisory Council Presentation - Wick Alumni Center
2:30 p.m. Friday, May 9, 2008
John C. Owens, NU Vice President and
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

Folks, I'm so pleased to be here with you today to talk about the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the exciting, valuable contributions "our" faculty, staff, and students are making to Nebraska and, indeed, the world. Last year an independent study found the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources provides "a" "conservative" 15-to-1 return on state tax dollars invested with us. We call that study the At Work for Nebraska "study" because - "well", that's what we are about.

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THE NEBRASKA STATE
ARCHIVES
the Neb. Veterinary Diagnostic LAB*

The Institute has three major divisions: the Agricultural Research Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Research, teaching, and extension education, the three legs of the land-grant university stool, are closely entwined within the Institute, where contributions and close collaboration of all three allow us to well-prepare our students for "future" careers and lives, and take the resources of this great land-grant university all across Nebraska.

I'm going to set the scene here with just a few sample clips from our At Work for Nebraska video, then send the complete 10-minute video home with each of you. The video provides examples of the many diverse ways we are at work throughout our state, helping sustain, grow, and prosper Nebraska's agriculture, natural resources, and human resources.

We also have a copy of our Ag College Dreams video for you. It's narrated by Nebraskan Dick Cavett and tells the story of UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, with some fun facts and photos from the University's early days.

Now, a quick peek at a couple ways we are At Work for Nebraska:

About four minutes, beginning through water/Jim Goeke piece; picks up on Tiffany Heng-Moss through end

As the video notes, water is absolutely vital to Nebraska. Our faculty are leaders in addressing complex, important water-management issues for Nebraska and the region. UNL Extension work in the Republican River Basin has focused on teaching producers to achieve nearly full yields with less water. One strategy demonstrated that a water miser technique could use 31 percent less water while reducing corn yields only 3 percent. Pumping cost-savings usually more than offset yield loss. The 190 farmers attending 2007 UNL Extension field days in the Republican River Basin estimated value of the knowledge they gained at \$3.4 million collectively, with a potential water savings of nearly two inches of water per acre.

Last year 135,000 Nebraska youth took part in extension's 4-H programming - the highest, per capita 4-H enrollment in the Nation! 4-H helps youth develop critical thinking, responsibility, and confidence in a fun, educational format.

extension.org

I'm proud to tell you, too, that our Extension Division is helping "lead the way" in the new nationwide, Web-based eXtension initiative headquartered on the East Campus. This year our extension dean "heads" the national extension group that oversees ^{all of} extension, through the "National Association" of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

Our Agricultural Research Division is home to some of the most-cited agricultural researchers in the world, according to a report that keeps tabs on research that captures the interest of scientists. We're in the top 10 U.S. universities "cited", with the University of California-Davis "number one" among U.S. universities, UNL ninth, and Michigan State University 10th.

We're in some very good company here!

New Chair of Biochemistry

Dr. PAUL BLACK

ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE
ORONDA Research Institute

DR. CONCETTA

DiRUSSO
- Nutrition & Health Science

DR. MARK BASHWELT

Ag. Leadership, Education & Communication
- Purdue

Our Agricultural Research Division is UNL's leader in garnering grants and contracts. 'Adding together' grants and contracts earned by all parts of the Institute accounts for nearly 38 percent of all grants and contracts earned at UNL this past year. Such facts and figures 'illustrate' the caliber of our people, but what matters most is 'how' we are at work for Nebraska through research and education 'addressing' current issues and 'preparing' Nebraskans to deal with future ones.

As for our College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, or CASNR, I am delighted to tell you that in fall 2007, CASNR showed its largest enrollment increase in the last three decades. Enrollment rose 11.7 percent – 152 students above the previous year. Spring semester CASNR again led all of UNL with an 11.5 percent increase – 143 students.

Since I came to the Institute in 2001, we've built on CASNR's strong traditional programs to add eight new undergraduate degree programs and revise four. New undergraduate degree programs are Professional Golf Management, with the College of Business Administration and the College of Education and Human Sciences ~~_____~~ ^{on CEHS} ~~_____~~, Insect Science; Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism Management, with CEHS; Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, with the College of Architecture; Plant Biology, with the College of Arts and Sciences; Forensic Science; Food Technology for Companion Animals; and Turfgrass and Landscape Management.

We have four new undergraduate minors, and three new Ph.D. programs -- in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Natural Resource Sciences, and Horticulture, (formerly Horticulture and Forestry).

We've added two accelerated BS/MS degree programs, and a number of new undergraduate program options -- five in agribusiness, including UNL's new agricultural finance and banking option; one in agricultural economics; one in biochemistry; two in environmental restoration science; four in natural resources and environmental economics; one in veterinary science; five in water science; **BOTH** companion animals and equine science in animal science, and horticultural-entrepreneurship in horticulture.

Plus we started the Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Learning Community; a partnership with the J.D. Edwards program; a dual B.S. Degree in food science and biology with Wayne State College; seven new transfer agreements with colleges and community colleges in Nebraska and Iowa; and a new Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program with Iowa State University in which 25 Nebraska students take their first two years of veterinary medicine study on our campus before transferring to Iowa State for their last two years. This is the first time veterinary medicine has ever been taught in Nebraska.

We're ^{also} busy in distance education at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Our undergraduate distance education includes an on-line undergraduate degree completion program; our Nebraska Academy, which offers "on-line" UNL courses for high school delivery; our meat culinology certification, offered jointly with CEHS; and our agricultural and natural resources legal studies certificate in agricultural economics.

These are just a few of the many ways we are at work for Nebraska.

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