



November 10, 2005

THE POWER OF RED

This past week with junior and senior students in Saline County traveling in for the County Government Day program, it reminded me of the importance of plans for students after high school. Let me share with you some "Big Red Truths" about the affordability and value of a college degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I will also share, at the end of this column, a scholarship I can offer you.

UNL is affordable. Some students think the cost of a university education is beyond reach, but that is just not the case. Consider the fact a family with four with one in college and an income of \$40,000 or less, receive federal, state and university grants in an amount that equals or exceeds tuition. Families with higher incomes may qualify, depending on their circumstances. Community college is certainly a valid option but remember this fact. Only 22% of community college students actually follow through and transfer to a four-year school. Studies show, if you earn a degree at UNL rather than a two-year degree, you can expect your four-year degree to pay for itself in four years in greater personal income.

Nearly every student at UNL is eligible to obtain financial aid to help finance the cost of their education. 69% of UNL's new freshmen receive scholarships and/or gift aid toward payment of their tuition. 26% of full-time UNL students receive financial gift aid equal to or greater than the cost of tuition. 47% of new freshmen received scholarships from UNL in the fall of 2005. Nearly 7 million dollars in scholarships are awarded to new students every year and every student is eligible for student loans with no required payments until after graduation.

About 50-70% of all new college freshmen across the country don't know which program of study is right for them. With more than 140 programs of study to choose from, UNL is an outstanding place to explore a variety of interests.

So you really need or want a small college atmosphere? Then choose East Campus or The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) at UNL. This college has graduates as researchers and scientists, veterinarians, physicians, environmental specialists, food technologists, landscape designers, golf course superintendents, fish and wildlife or rangeland managers, commodities/investment traders, bankers and other business professionals, to name a few. CASNR graduates also pursue professional studies in law, medicine, veterinary science, and postgraduate study and it is a small campus atmosphere. Go to grow.unl.edu on the worldwide web to learn more or phone toll-free at 1-866-grow-unl.

Some students in CASNR have talked about how a faculty member invited every student in his class who wasn't going home for Thanksgiving to his house for dinner. Or that a professor in a large lecture class knows every student by their name at the end of the first week of classes. It's not unusual to have faculty members set advising hours in the evening when students have time in their week to visit about courses, concerns or career direction. That's the advantage of smaller classes on East Campus.



CASNR has many students with ACT scores in the 18 to 25 range. But if you have an ACT of 26 or higher, I can award you a \$1,000.00 scholarship. This is on top of other UNL scholarship offers. Give me a call at 821-2151 or e-mail rpryor1@unl.edu Let me know if you are interested in more information on this new scholarship program and/or the "Power of Red."

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