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PROUD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

I grew up in Southeastern Nebraska near Nemaha on a farm and earned my Bachelors Degree and Masters Degree from the University of Nebraska in Mechanized Agriculture. I had professors like Dale Flowerday, Jack Schinstock and Milford Hanna that were outstanding teachers and individuals. I am very proud of the University of Nebraska and the teaching, research and extension programs offered for the residents and businesses in Nebraska.

My co-worker in Gage County, Paul Hay, thinks Nebraska is a common man state. I tend to agree. Perhaps in some states you work for the University and have a bit of a cubbyhole life unfettered by the needs or concerns of the citizens of the state. In Nebraska, the people call for the University of Nebraska to be engaged in their everyday lives and work. Many of Saline County's citizens have been involved in some way directly or indirectly with our engaged University.

Recently, the University of Nebraska has received a lot of criticism and also a lot of support regarding changes in programs and fees due to budget shortfalls. This is no different than all government and businesses and individuals across the state. Because the University is something that matters to us, it receives lots of attention. Here are some "Big Red Truths."

A University of Nebraska education is still one of America's best values. It is rated among in the top group among national public universities in the country. It took hard work and a very conservative lifestyle during my years at UNL. That is still possible today at the University of Nebraska. There are a multitude of on and off campus jobs, good summer internships and employment throughout the state, and over 6 million dollars in scholarships are awarded each year. A total of 65% of freshman students, 50% of transfer students and 25% of all students receive scholarships and financial aid equal to or greater than the cost of tuition. It is a little tougher right now for students from lower income families. Still, with a combination of savings for college, work, financial assistance, and loans, a college education at the University of Nebraska or jointly at Southeast Community College and the University of Nebraska, is within the grasp of any capable and willing student in Nebraska.

My first son, Aaron, did not attend the University of Nebraska like his mother and father did. He chose to pursue a dream of playing small college basketball at Wesleyan. Now in his sophomore year, he understands that intramural sports is much more fun, he spends less time in the emergency room and the pressure is off. He has learned this year the most important step is pursuing classes that form career choices and he is much happier.

I have a lot of pride in my educational background along with many of my co-workers. It has given me a platform to develop a career in Nebraska which is ever changing, satisfying, dynamic and provides a reasonable living to provide for my family and help my children chose educational opportunities including the University of Nebraska.



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