



# THE HUSKER ADVOCATE

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

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## *Message from Juan N. Franco*

### Big Goals for the Big Red in the Big Ten

After the many beginning of semester activities, we are finally settling in to our regular routine. We now have time to focus on the University goals as outlined by Chancellor Perlman in his State of the University address. Specifically, he stated that by 2017, we should be at 30,000 students (currently we are at about 24,600), reach a 70% six-year graduation rate (currently at about 65%), and reach \$300 million in research funding (currently at about \$150 million). This presents an exciting challenge for us in helping meet these goals but also in doing what we need to do to accommodate the increased number of students. All departments will be impacted so we need to be proactive in our actions to be able to provide the level of services that our students deserve. While we have metrics as stated above, the real goal is to make the institution better.

Within Student Affairs, many exciting things are occurring. Our proposed two new residence halls received approval from the Commission on Post Secondary Education and the Executive Board of the Legislature, the last steps in the approval process. One hall is set to open in 2013 and the other one in 2014. We will certainly need the new bed spaces because of the anticipated enrollment growth and because of the planned demolition of Cather and Pound halls. The proposed new Campus Recreation Facility at the East Campus will go before these two Boards this semester.



The Center for Civic Engagement has opened its doors (the Center is featured in this newsletter); the Certificate for Civic Engagement, a collaborative effort between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, was approved by the Board of Regents at its September meeting and now also needs to go before the Commission on Post Secondary Education; and we have established the Nebraska Campus Compact (an association which promotes service-learning and civic engagement). The Nebraska Campus Compact will be featured in a subsequent Newsletter.

The Nebraska City Union will undergo some cosmetic changes to make it look more "UNL". Be prepared to see more red colors and more red Ns on all floors.

Through an agreement between the College of Business Administration (CBA) and Career Services, two career counselors have been hired to work with our students with special emphasis on CBA students.

#### Find calendar information at:

**UNL Calendar:**  
<http://events.unl.edu/>

**Student Affairs Calendar:**  
<http://stuafs.unl.edu/>

**Student Involvement:**  
<http://involved.unl.edu/>

As part of our retention efforts, a software product known as “Starfish” has been purchased to help advise students. This will help in making academic advising more intrusive.

The plan is to pilot the product in the spring semester and. The product can also be used as an early-alert system.

The Student Affairs Fall Celebration was held on September 16. Attendance was at an all-time high and a good time was had by all.

We are off to a good start this semester. I wish all a good year and hope you enjoy working at UNL as much as I do.



## Featured Student . . . . . Lane Carr

“There is no place like Nebraska” rang out as I was welcomed to the University during NSE. It wasn’t until I was a student here that I truly took this song to heart.

My name is Lane Carr, and I’m a senior political science and history double major, human rights and humanitarian affairs and economics minors, from Ainsworth, Nebraska. Coming from a small town (UNL’s population is 24 times the size of Ainsworth), I thought I would be swallowed up, just another number sent through the giant University machine. It wasn’t long, however, that I realized the Cornhusker Community is warm, welcoming, and ready to help every member succeed in any way. It has been my honor and pleasure serving as ASUN’s President and UNL’s student regent for the past few months, helping students by representing them.

I have ASUN to thank for some of the most meaningful and growth-facilitating experiences of my life, and certainly of my college career. Walking around the Big Red Welcome street festival, I was a little overwhelmed. There was so much to do! Soap-Carving Club? Sign me up! Lumberjack Club? SIGN ME UP! All joking aside, I was instantly drawn to ASUN student government as a way to learn and grow alongside other campus leaders.

My experience in Freshmen Campus Leadership Associates led me to try new things, and explore further leadership opportunities on campus. The Nebraska Human Resources Institute (NHRI) soon became one of my favorite activities, as I was paired with a young man, Matt, who showed strong potential to impact his peers.

Additionally, I am kept busy with my Honors Program thesis on the negative effects of the TEEOSA state school funding formula on rural schools. I also continue my involvement with the Nebraska Association of Student Council’s volunteer staff, as Director of the Junior High and Middle School Workshop each summer. I have been humbled to be surrounded by 12

outstanding members of the University community as part of the 107<sup>th</sup> class of the Innocents Society.

When I’m not spending time in the ASUN office or studying, I enjoy running and plan on participating in the Lincoln marathon for the second time this May. I also enjoy cooking, and make a killer batch of Kraft Easy Mac! Upon graduating in May, I would like to teach, preferably middle school, and I have applied to Teach For America, an organization that would place me in an underserved and underrepresented school. Ultimately, I would like to work for a school, school district or politician in crafting education policy.

My favorite part of my time at UNL has been learning more about just how great this University has been, is now, and will be in the future. We have a long history of doing the right thing: from our first African American athlete George Flippin who defied jeers and hatred in 1892 to our acceptance of Japanese students during WWII when other large universities chose not to accept them, to today’s 21<sup>st</sup> century implementation of this commitment to doing the right thing, the Gaughan Center, we Cornhuskers have always lived virtuous lives. Our spirit and need for advancement of others and ourselves drives our every move. As student body president, I meet students who embody such spirit each and every day.

Though I truly believe I attend the greatest University in America, there is always room for improvement. And that is what I have aimed to achieve with ASUN. Last year, the *action party* was formed to create a sense of collaboration amongst different groups, to empower the student body, and promote transparency of ASUN’s actions. I have been honored to work with two of the most intelligent and passionate Vice-Presidents one could ask for. Jeff Lopez, a senior chemical engineering major from North Platte, is our Internal Vice-President, while Matt Hilgenkamp, our External Vice-President, is

## Lane Carr *(continued from Page 2)*

a senior accounting major from Colon, Nebraska. Apart from simply putting up with me, these two have been a joy to work with by simply watching their enthusiasm for their jobs each and every day.

Matt, Jeff and I are working with an enthusiastic and excited group of senators on many initiatives. First, ASUN is taking a strong stance on advocating for Other Qualified Adult Benefits, equalizing the benefit offerings for staff, and making UNL a more competitive place for faculty. Together, we are pushing for an expanded ASUN senate, for as the University grows, so to must its representative bodies.

Additionally, we have many initiatives encouraging students to be engaged. Jeff is coordinating The Big Event, and has big goals for its expansion and success at UNL. Jeff is also working with the Gaughan Center and Union to discuss ways to assess the need for a 24-hour study space. I have been working with the Center for Civic Engagement on Huskers Fighting Hunger, a forum telling students how they can impact local hunger. Matt is working with the Campus Compact to incorporate a student piece, connecting student groups from across Nebraska in a "Nebraska State Student Association". It is our intention that such an organization would serve as an excellent sounding

board for ideas and collaboration as well as a unified advocacy voice. Matt is also working with the Deans' Council to create a TEDx event, bringing "Ideas Worth Spreading" to the attention of the University community.

Watch for these projects within ASUN as well: the creation of a Student Bereavement Policy (Grief Leave Policy), addressing of graduate student needs/issues (teacher's assistant's rights), ASUN Alumni Newsletter, Show Your Red continuance, Master and Strategic Plan for Sustainability, and hosting the Big Ten on the Hill Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. for the second year in a row. As you can see, we will be very busy over this next year. We're so excited for the opportunities to interact with other student affairs groups to bring these goals, and the goals we can help you with, into fruition.

Much like you, ASUN is very excited for the opportunity to make students' times here more meaningful and full of opportunities. Please don't hesitate in sending a student into the ASUN office with a question. I appreciate you taking the time to get to know me a little better.

In all you do, don't forget, you are the place you make. Continue to make this place like no other.



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## Featured Department. . . . . Center for Civic Engagement

The UNL Center for Civic Engagement encourages students to connect curricular and co-curricular learning with opportunities to address critical human need through service, civic-related research and social change leadership.

Through programs and services offered by the Center, students acquire the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to advance community priorities and inspire a lifelong commitment to personal and social responsibility. The new Certificate in Civic Engagement is designed to help students connect what they learn in their ACE general education courses with experiences outside the classroom.

Center-sponsored professional development activities expose faculty, staff and community partners to state-of-the-art practice that advances the scholarship of engagement. It provides a forum for communicating ideas and activities related to civic work.

The Center for Civic Engagement serves as a clearinghouse, facilitating communication between students, teaching and research faculty, and staff with identified community needs, both local and global.

The Center also serves as the home of Nebraska Campus Compact, a consortium of two- and four-year higher education institutions committed to providing meaningful experiences for students to become active engaged leaders in their communities, furthering the civic and public purposes of higher education and strengthening communities.

As an example of a recent project undertaken by students addressing critical human need through service was the Joplin, MO Fall Break Trip. Joplin was hit by one of the deadliest single tornados in more than half a century this past May. Due to the severity of this natural disaster a lot of help was needed. Students came together for this Fall Break tornado relief trip where they worked with the organization Relief Spark to help this community recover from this devastating natural disaster.

In addition, the Center for Civic Engagement was pleased to host the “Give Back. Big.” contest this fall. Students and recognized student organizations were encouraged to submit proposals for ideas to help the community. A committee of faculty, staff, students and community partners reviewed the proposals and selected one winning entry. The University of Nebraska’s Student Chapters of Engineers without Borders –USA (EWB-NU) was selected to win a \$1,000 prize to give back their community cause.

We know that our students have some great ideas and a lot to give to our communities. While our communities will definitely benefit from these efforts, we know our students will also benefit. We know that their contributions are a learning opportunity for them. The Center for Civic Engagement wants to encourage and assist with these opportunities as well as to recognize the efforts of our students. By participating in the Certificate in Civic Engagement, students will gain:

- ✓ Skills in 6 areas of civic engagement
- ✓ An edge in the job market
- ✓ A new perspective beyond just self



*Back Row: Linda Moody, Nancy Mitchell, Linda Major, Kris Baack, and Anna Pressler  
Front Row: Lorena Zamarripa-Lovo, Justin Whitefoot, Abby Sjogren*

# The Center for Civic Engagement Welcomes you . . .



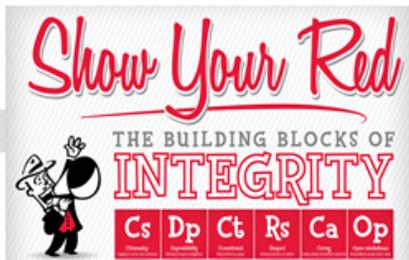
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## Learn More About It . . .



Make sure you Show Your Red too!  
<http://stuafs.unl.edu/showyourred>

### Explore Student Affairs: Career & Education Opportunities

Learn about the profession of Student Affairs, meet and hear why UNL Student Affairs Professionals enjoy working in this field, and learn about being on your way to a career in Student Affairs through applying for UNL's Student Affairs Master's Program.

**When:** Thursday, November 10, 2011

**Time:** 5-7 p.m.

**Where:** Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center

**Questions?** Contact: 402-472-3755

[Online Registration Is Now Open!](#)



<http://stuafs.unl.edu/grad.shtml>