



The University of Nebraska Report from the Board of Regents

July 2007

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A report of the July 2007 meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.



Gov. Dave Heineman (left) and University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken spoke at a community breakfast in July, part of the Board of Regents summer visit and meeting in Fremont.

Regents hold community visit and meeting in Fremont

University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken and Gov. Dave Heineman, speaking at a Board of Regents (BOR) community visit to Fremont in July, agreed that the University is vital to the future of the state.

“How we continue the University’s momentum, which will help keep and attract talent and help fuel the economy of 21st century Nebraska, is one of the key issues facing our state,” Milliken said, noting University successes in enrollment, research, and attracting outstanding faculty and students.

Heineman invited a public discussion of the fiscal challenges facing the state and University, specifically the resource crunch caused by competing demands on the state purse and the limited growth in the state’s capacity to meet them.

Milliken explained the intention of these annual BOR trips is to meet with community leaders and learn about local economic and education issues, and in turn how the university might help address those issues. For the past 25 years BOR has held the July meeting in communities throughout Nebraska, beyond the three NU campus locations in Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney.



Panelists who discussed economic development at the Board of Regents meeting included (from left): **Pete Kotsiopoulos**, Vice President for University Affairs, University of Nebraska; **Russ Peterson**, Nye Senior Services Inc.; **Bart Qualsett**, Fremont National Bank; **Bob Hartwig**, Fremont City Administrator; and **Steve Leonard**, McDonald's and Leonard Management Inc.

Fremont business leaders urge better recruiting, promoting

Goals of educating a skilled workforce and keeping Nebraska youth in the state were priorities identified by Fremont business leaders who spoke to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents this summer.

- **Steve Leonard**, McDonald's and Leonard Management Inc.: "We are losing our most precious natural resource, our young people. They are leaving the state. We need to work on our recruiting and marketing, for both the University and the state of Nebraska."
- **Bob Hartig**, Fremont City Administrator: "There is a demand for people with technical skills, and a demand for people with college degrees, and we need to be educating both. But we also need to be promoting ourselves as an exciting place to live and go to school."
- **Bart Qualsett**, Fremont National Bank: "We need more opportunities for jobs; we need to keep growing, and keeping our young people in Nebraska communities... And I believe this state lags far behind in opportunities for venture capital."
- **Russ Peterson**, Nye Senior Services: "Part of the success of any community – of any state – is a responsive, vibrant education system. We need to be responding to all students, including non-traditional students: the single mom with kids, the older student, the families who can't afford tuition."

Educators discuss challenges facing 21st classrooms

Fremont educators talked about the challenges facing schools in a panel discussion at the University of Nebraska's Board of Regents (BOR) July meeting.

"We need to get kids, and keep them," said Fremont teacher Joann Lehman. "And the University needs to do the same: get students into college, and keep them there."

Todd Hansen, with Metropolitan Community College in Fremont, agreed, urging the BOR to step up recruitment efforts and prioritize the goal of providing affordable access to higher education for all students.

"The bottom line is preparing students with skills to get decent, well-paying jobs," Dr. Rod Koerber, a member of the Fremont Public School Board, told the BOR. "Investment in education is the best way to fight social ills."



The Board of Regents panel on education included (from left): **Marty Mahler**, Nebraska P-16 Initiative; **Dr. Steve Sexton**, Superintendent, Fremont Public Schools; **Joann Lehman**, Fremont teacher; **Todd Hansen**, Metropolitan Community College; and **Dr. Rod Koerber**, Fremont Public School Board.

News briefs

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents has approved the purchase of a **low-temperature scanning tunneling microscope** for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The microscope will be the key instrument in the Department of Physics and Astronomy for continuing research into the structure, electronic properties and magnetism of nanostructures.