



Update

The newsletter of the
NU Directions
Campus-Community
Coalition

Volume 6, Number 2

May, 2006

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Funded by a grant
from the
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WITH ONE STONE

New state law provides control over density and RBST certification, completing the coalition's original 1998 strategic plan

Though the end of the 2006 Legislative Session was only hours away, Senators of the Nebraska Unicameral passed LB 845, a bill that gives new teeth to the Liquor Control Commission's ability to deny new licenses, adds outlet density as a criteria for license denial, and grants provisions and authority for the Liquor Control Commission to certify and underwrite responsible beverage service training programs like the one created by NU Directions.

Written by Sen. David Landis (Lincoln), declared a priority bill by Sen. Lowen Kruse (Omaha), and signed into law by Governor Dave Heineman on April 13th, LB 845 first changes one simple but profound word of the Nebraska Liquor Control Act. Originally, the section read, "A retail license or craft brewery license *shall* be issued to any qualified applicant . . .". Under the new law, the word "shall" is replaced with the word "may." The change empowers and protects the Commission's decision to deny licenses from being overturned by District Court judges who believe the word "shall" guarantees the granting of a license in most cases, even despite objections by



Sen. David Landis



Sen. Lowen Kruse

local officials in the municipality where the license is sought.

The new law also adds outlet density as a criterion for refusal. New language added by LB 845 states that a new license may be denied if "as evidenced by substantive, corroborated documentation, the issuance of such license would result in or add to an undue concentration of licenses with similar privileges and, as a result, require the use of additional law enforcement resources."

Finally, LB 845, through an amendment written by Sen. Kruse, empowers the Commission to certify and support responsible beverage training programs. NU Directions has long sought stronger support for training as evidence suggests it has an impact on over-service and service to minors.

NU Directions assisted the effort to pass LB 845 by providing information briefings on outlet

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NU Directions coalition 1998 strategic goals impacted by the passage of LB 845

Goal 9

Reduce over-service and service to minors

Goal 10

Reduce or control the proliferation of liquor licenses

New law *(continued from page 1)*

density and responsible service training to both the General Affairs Committee, where the bill originated, as well as the the entire Unicameral once the bill was brought to the floor. Coalition co-Chair Tom Casady served an invaluable role by providing Senators Landis and Kruse examples of documentation that would assist the Liquor Control Commission in determining if an area's density would create a need for additional law enforcement. Opposition to the bill surrounded fears by the grocery industry and individual senators that the new criteria would be arbitrary and capricious, lead-

ing to frivolous denials by state officials when local entities complained of density issues. The Lincoln Police Department has been a national leader in the use of data analysis and Graphic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to quantify and predict police needs per geographic area.

Individual members of the coalition also played a key role in speaking with senators about the bill. Additional support for the legislation from other coalitions and organizations across the state added to the successful vote, with 42 of the 49 senators voting in favor of the bill at the final reading.

City-Wide Task Force Creates Comprehensive Plan for Neighborhoods

A special task force led by City Councilwoman and NU Directions member Patte Newman gathered information and explored a wide variety of options to assist permanent residents in North Bottoms and other neighborhoods surrounding college campuses across Lincoln in reducing the number of noise and party complaints.

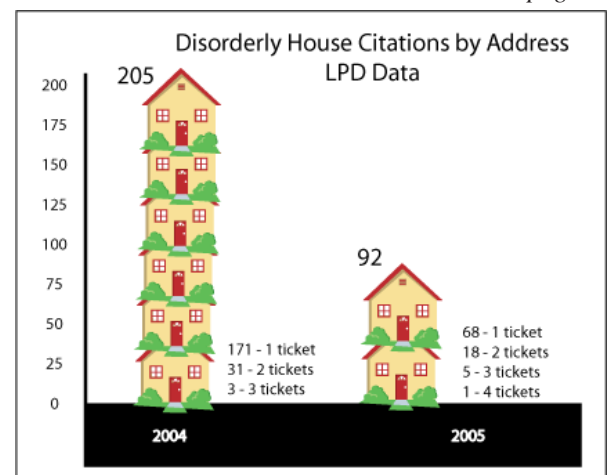
The task force was formed after the City Council was approached to consider a "red tag" policy, currently being used in Tucson, Arizona. In the Lincoln plan, residents receiving a "Disorderly House" citation have a red sticker attached to the building for 90 days. UNL students and other groups opposed the idea, leading to a need to explore other potential options for reducing the problems experienced by neighbors due to loud parties.

The NU Directions coalition has continued an active role in the effort, providing an in-depth analysis of police records to create a clearer picture of the problem, bringing student and staff representatives from UNL, Nebraska Wesleyan, and Southeast Community College together to look at issues along with LPD Captains from across the city, and serving on the task force to create a comprehensive plan to address the problem through

multiple stakeholders including police, neighborhood associations, student groups, administrators, and landlords.

Data analysis by NU Directions staff found that college students comprise only 25% of young adults cited for Disorderly House. Of those, the vast majority are one-time offenders. Coalition staff also discovered that although the number of complaints about wild parties, noise disturbances, and other related problems increased from 2004 to 2005, the actual number of citations decreased. Two causes for this discrepancy were identified: Permanent residents are feeling more empowered to complain following heavy media and information campaigns on the issue, and police are able to

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Statewide Initiative Launched

Twelve state-funded colleges and universities in Nebraska officially banded together as a statewide consortium in March of this year, forming the Nebraska Collegiate Consortium to Reduce High-Risk Drinking.

In January, Student Affairs leaders from the state's community colleges, state colleges, and the University of Nebraska system were invited to a symposium by NU Directions co-Chair James Griesen. Peter Lake from the Stetson University School of Law discussed the legal motivations for developing a strategic plan that incorporates environmental strategies. The leaders also learned the details of a plan to have the Nebraska Prevention Center (NPC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln assist them -- through a grant by the U.S. Department of Education -- in developing a task force on their campus. NPC and NU Directions staff will provide training and technical assistance to the other campuses through "drive-in" workshops and individual consultation, resulting in strategic plans to change the alcohol environment at each of the campuses.

Currently, the twelve state-funded institutions represent approximately eighty percent of the students attending college in Nebraska. Once established, the campus task forces could join efforts with existing community-coalitions across the state currently receiving funding from the State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) and administrated by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service Systems. Linking to the community coalitions of surrounding cities or counties will help coordinate campus and municipal/county environmental efforts, enabling both to work together more effectively.

Beyond the initial year of training and technical advising, the Consortium will serve as a place for collegial exchange of resources, knowledge, and information for all public and private institutions in the state on environmental management strategies to reduce alcohol problems on campus. Currently, the NPC is working on a statewide survey, funded by a grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, that will enable every campus in Nebraska to collect similar data on college student drinking and related problems. Individual colleges and universities in the

"By coordinating with the Nebraska Partners in Prevention Network and the community programs receiving federal funding through the State Incentive Partnership Agreement or SICA, we now have an opportunity to reach out to students and encourage healthy behaviors from the time they enter school all the way through to their college graduation in this state."

Gov. David Heineman at the NCC Launch Press Conference, March 1, 2006

state can utilize the survey to assess the behaviors and attitudes of their own student population, and collected data from across the campuses can help provide a clearer picture of alcohol use by all Nebraska college students. The survey, created by NPC staff and administered by the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will also allow individual campuses to add questions for additional research purposes. The survey tool should be ready for distribution by the fall of 2006.

On March 1, administrators from the NPC, UNL, and each of the campuses conducted a press conference announcing the formation of the Consortium. Governor David Heineman joined the group to offer his own congratulations for the effort. The Consortium has already held its first training, as members of core planning teams from each of the campuses gathered to learn about coalition-building and environmental scanning. Throughout the summer, the campuses will be conducting environmental scans, bringing their information to a training session in September on Strategic Planning facilitated by the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention.



MEMBERS

- Central Community College
- Chadron State College
- Metropolitan Community College
- Mid-Plains Community College
- Northeast Community College
- Peru State College
- Southeast Community College
- University of Nebraska-Kearney
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Wayne State College
- Western Nebraska Community College

for more information:
nebconsortium.org

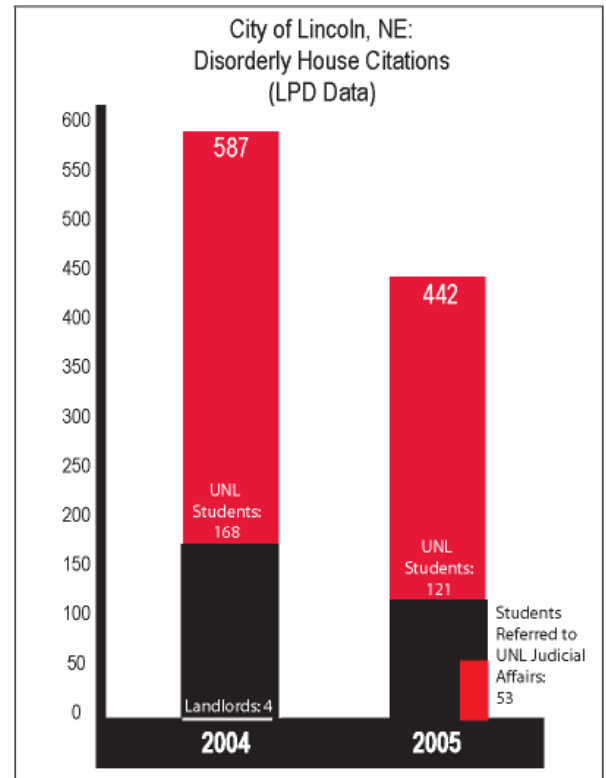
Neighborhoods

(continued from page 2)

quiet most disturbances with a simple warning, a realization that led the task force to formalize a “warning” system for police to use, including sending copies of warning tickets to landlords.

Other policies adopted by the Lincoln City Council include increased penalties -- in both fees and jail time-- for second offense Disorderly House citations. Several young adults, including UNL students, have been sentenced to serve time in jail for multiple offenses of Maintaining a Disorderly House.

Though choosing not to enact the red tag policy, the task force did create a list of responsibilities for each of the multiple stakeholders involved in the issue. UNL and other area colleges and universities, assisted by NU Directions, will continue to help students build positive relationships with their neighbors and recognize the potential problems caused when hosting or attending social gatherings in area neighborhoods.



Data from the Lincoln Police Department indicated that in 2005, only 442 of the 1800+ complaints by citizens about noise and related problems warranted citation. Approximately one-fourth of the citations issued were to UNL students.

On Campus



College Alcohol Profile

UNL Creates Tailored Brief Intervention Program

Although UNL has seen several years of success using “Check-Up to Go,” a web-based personalized brief intervention program created by San Diego State University, NU Directions member and Alcohol & Other Drug Program Coordinator Bob Schroeder believed that there was a better way to provide feedback to Husker students looking to understand their own drinking. Working with a grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, Bob began creating four different programs that offered “tailored” feedback, using language, comparisons, and illustrations that are more relatable for fraternity members, sorority members, athletes, and first-year students.

The program, titled College Alcohol Profile (CAP), provides instant feedback to a stu-

dent on everything from their peak Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) to the types of risk they face due to family history. In other feedback programs, a student is given information about the amount they drink compared to the general campus population. In CAP, they’ll compare their drinking to those of their immediate peer group as well as the general UNL population. Schroeder believes this makes the feedback more believable -- and more effective. Also unique to UNL’s CAP is the voice of the feedback, which comes from peers who actually help write the program. In the sorority version, for example, sorority members give the advice on how to drink less and stay healthy. The program also gives automatic “boosters” via e-mail reminders to help keep the motivation fresh in students’ minds throughout the academic year.