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CAUR

CENTER FOR APPLIED URBAN RESEARCH

Review

Volume 2
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S.T.A.R.T. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

S.T.A.R.T. Economic Development self-help kits, after a year of preparation and five years of development, are now packaged and available to Nebraska's communities.

Each kit contains a Local Leader's Guide, enough Participant's Handbooks for 30 local leaders, Community Analysis Software, and two videotapes titled "Doing the Strategic Planning Process," Days 1 and 2. Action Step Packets, to help communities carry out the action plans they develop, will be ready in June. A short video, "S.T.A.R.T. Economic Development: Assessing Readiness," and technical assistance from CAUR are available to any community wishing to consider S.T.A.R.T.

CAUR's next step is to develop a Promotional Packet that will help S.T.A.R.T. communities generate interest in and commitment to the program.

Two of S.T.A.R.T.'s newer developments include the addition of meeting facilitators and a link with Nebraska's Rural Renaissance Initiative.

The facilitators will help communities' steering committees by running the S.T.A.R.T. meetings, providing an objective viewpoint, and helping the group reach a consensus on its goals. Facilitators have been trained to use the S.T.A.R.T. package, and will be drawn from CAUR, the Nebraska Business Development Center, and local chambers of commerce.

As a component of the Rural Renaissance Initiative, S.T.A.R.T. projects will be followed by community



visits of the Governor's Rural Economic Action Team (GREAT). The GREAT team will review communities' action plans and help identify state resources that can assist each town in meeting its goals. At a February press conference Gov. Kay Orr said of S.T.A.R.T. and GREAT, "The two programs go hand in hand. We have the same goal—helping local communities find ways of developing economic development projects."

Thus far, six towns have purchased the kit. Twenty more communities are currently considering S.T.A.R.T. and assessing their readiness.

For more information on S.T.A.R.T. Economic Development, contact Alice Schumaker, Bob Blair or Russell L. Smith at 800/227-4533.

What's New? data bytes

In the middle of this review you'll find the premier issue of *data bytes*, quarterly newsletter of the Nebraska State Data Center. *data bytes* will keep data users informed about products and services from NSDC as well as other federal and state agencies.

If you want to keep receiving *data bytes*, or if you know someone who would find it useful, please fill out the attached postcard and mail it in to CAUR.

New Publications

Nebraska Policy Choices: 1988

The third annual volume of *Nebraska Policy Choices* came off the presses in early January and quickly found its way into the hands of Nebraska's policy makers. Its six chapters cover a wide spectrum of important issues:

"Prison Overcrowding in Nebraska: The Feasibility of Intensive Supervision Probation," by Dennis Hoffman and Vincent J. Webb.

"Child Day Care Policy Issues in Nebraska," by Christine M. Reed.

"Farm Income and Government Payments to Agriculture in Nebraska," by James R. Schmidt.

"Selling Nebraska's Water: Water Sales, Transfers and Exports," by J. David Aiken.

"The Importance of Interstate Highways to Economic Development in Nebraska," by David M. Ambrose and Louis G. Pol.

"Rural-Urban Linkages: An Assessment of State Government Revenue and Expenditure Patterns," by Jerome A. Deichert.

Response to this year's volume has been all positive. Many of the chapters have been cited by lawmakers and special committees, and they have received substantial press coverage.

Copies of *Nebraska Policy Choices: 1988* are available from CAUR for \$9.95, and single-chapter reprints are \$2.50 each. Full sets of the three NPC volumes published since 1986 cost \$24.95.

Occasional Paper

Another recent CAUR publication is Samuel Walker's Occasional Paper, "Employment of Black and Hispanic Police Officers, 1983-1988: A Follow-up Study."

Walker, a UNO professor of criminal justice, surveyed the police departments of the 50 largest cities in the United States to study their hiring of black and Hispanic officers. Comparing the percentage of minority officers to the percentage of minority community members, Walker developed an index to measure a department's minority hiring success. The current report follows up a similar 1983 study, also conducted by Walker.

The extensive data presented in the report show uneven progress in minority hiring by U.S. police departments. While some departments—often fueled by court-ordered affirmative action plans—are improving their employment equitability, other departments' losses and slow gains offset the good news.

Omaha is included in the tables as the 48th largest U.S. city. In the Omaha Police Division, 10.6 percent of the officers are black. Comparing this to the local population yields an index of .88, a high index compared to other cities and a positive 27.5 percent change over the 1983 index. Omaha places even better in employment of Hispanic officers: 2.9 percent of the police force are Hispanic, yielding a very high index of 1.26. This is a 38.4 percent increase from 1983.

Walker's piece is the first in a new series of Occasional Papers. Copies can be purchased from CAUR for \$2.

The State of Black Omaha: 1989

As part of the Urban Conditions Research Program, CAUR published the Urban League of Nebraska's *The State of Black Omaha: 1989*. Its two sections include "Education," by Dr. Wali Gill, assistant professor of teacher education at UNO's College of Education; and "Economic Development and Employment," by CAUR Research Associate Alice Schumaker.

George Dillard, president of the Urban League of Nebraska, states in his Foreword, "*The State of Black Omaha* has become a tradition in this city. While society uses many barometers to see just how well or how poorly Blacks and poor people are faring, this document has developed as a relatively accurate measurement tool over the years . . . CAUR and our authors have hit the mark time and time again in showing the reality of black life."

Copies of the executive summaries or the entire report can be purchased from the Urban League, 453-9730.

Directory of Economic Development

The University of Nebraska has published a *Directory of Economic Development Programs*, a comprehensive guide to University research and service programs that contribute to the economic development of Nebraska. The directory lists 66 programs, their directors, and contact phone numbers for programs at UNO, UNL and UNMC.

Copies of the directory may be obtained from Don Pursell, Economic Development Coordinator, University of Nebraska, 109 Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege, Lincoln, NE 68583-0743; phone 402/472-2861.

Staff Happenings

CAUR has lost one employee but gained four in recent months, reflecting our growth in a number of areas and projects.

Dr. Chris Marshall joined CAUR in January. Marshall earned his bachelor's and master's in sociology from Bowling Green State University, and his Ph.D. in sociology from Iowa State University. His professional background includes a broad variety of teaching and research. Marshall's work for the Center includes initiating the first Omaha Conditions Survey. In addition, he is involved with a number of research projects with Department of Criminal Justice faculty.

Melanie Hayes is our new secretary. Hayes recently returned to the Omaha area after earning her bachelor of arts in philosophy from Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.

David Fifer joined us in March. He will work with the Nebraska State Data Center and assist with research activities. Fifer comes to us from the Nebraska Department of Labor. He earned his bachelor of arts in public policy from Brigham Young University and his Master of Public Administration from UNO.

Finally, Bob Blair, formerly of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, came aboard in April. Blair earned his bachelor of arts in political science and public administration as well as his Master of Public Administration from UNO. He will assist the Center with various research and outreach activities; currently he is making his mark as part of the S.T.A.R.T. Economic Development project staff.

CAUR bid goodbye to Associate Director Dr. Christine Reed in December. Reed missed the classroom and has moved almost full-time to UNO's Department of Public Administration. She is now teaching administrative law and public personnel management. Chris is continuing to work on issues in child day care policy, and is serving as one of three editors for the forthcoming *Nebraska Policy Choices* volume on education.

New Urban Conditions Projects

Awards were recently made for five new research projects under CAUR's Urban Conditions Research Program. Currently in its second year, the Urban Conditions Research Program is designed to focus on the following issues: minority conditions, social service delivery systems, economic and social conditions, and small town conditions. The principal investigators and their projects are:

Donald Greer (Health, Physical Education and Recreation) and Michael Lacy (Sociology), "Perceived and Actual Equity in the Allocation of Recreation Resources in Omaha." This is an examination of the link between Omaha residents' utilization and perception of recreation facilities and programs, and the actual allocation of recreation resources.

Obie Clayton and Vince Webb (Criminal Justice), "Patterns of Violent Crime in the City of Omaha: 1960-85." This project will analyze trends in homicide and other violent crimes in the city of Omaha to identify factors associated with violent episodes. In addition, an assessment will be made of any possible link between violence and changing structural conditions in Omaha.

Ann Coyne and Robin Russel (Social Work), "Identifying Systemic Delays in Adoption or Permanent Guardianship of Developmentally Disabled Children." The authors will examine adoption delay rates among developmentally and nondevelopmentally disabled foster children, sources of delay, and ways of reducing delays.

James Johnson (Political Science) and Phil Secret (CPACS Associate Dean), "Correlates of Case Disposition in the Nebraska Juvenile Court System." The impact of minority group status of juvenile offenders on court dispositions will be researched.

Sam Walker (Criminal Justice), "Improving Police-Minority Group Relations: Exploring the role of the Police Procedure Manual." This project will address the role of police standard operating procedure (SOP) manuals in guiding police officer behavior toward minority individuals.

In addition to these projects, research is currently being completed on several projects funded last year. Included is research focusing on teenage pregnancy, criminal victimization rates, the role of organization in small town economic development efforts, and criminal career patterns.

Policy Choices: Education

The first special Nebraska Policy Choices volume is underway. In the NPC tradition, *Nebraska Policy Choices: Education* will inform policy makers in Nebraska regarding important, current issues and their possible solutions.

The education volume's editors are UNO's Christine Reed (CAUR, Public Administration) and Patricia O'Connell (Education), and UNL's Miles Bryant (Education). The following chapters have been commissioned:

"Improving Life Chances for Children in Nebraska"

"Local Control of Education: Myths and Realities"

"Early Childhood Special Education in Nebraska: The Next Decade"

"Linkages Between Nebraska Education and Labor Markets: School-Business Partnerships"

"Educating Youth in Rural Nebraska: The Potential for Community Growth and Development"

"Youth at Risk in Nebraska"

"Nebraskans and Educational Pluralism"

"Images and Interpretations as Educational Outcomes"

Nebraska Policy Choices: Education will be off the press early this fall.

Review is published six times annually by the Center for Applied Urban Research and mailed free upon request.

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CAUR Faculty, Staff and Projects in the News

The following CAUR staff are serving on task forces of Nebraska Futures, Inc.: *Jerry Deichert*, statewide unity; *Alice Schumaker*, business diversification; and *Russell Smith*, infrastructure. The task forces have been meeting since January and expect to complete their recommendations on how to soon implement the action plan developed in the *New Seeds for Nebraska* report.

Tim Himberger demonstrated two software programs developed by CAUR at the April 14th Software Applications Expo sponsored by the University of Nebraska Computer System Network. One of the programs was developed to assist in the environmental scan of S.T.A.R.T. Economic Development. The second program was developed to allow a 50-state network of researchers affiliated with the National Small Government Research Network to enter survey data for a national database being developed by CAUR.

Jerry Deichert and *Russell Smith* were recently invited to continue serving as advisors to the New Horizons for Nebraska strategic planning effort of the Nebraska Legislature.

Christine Reed (Public Administration) provided testimony on Nebraska day care arrangements at two recent hearings of the legislature's health and human services committee. The legislature has been considering changes in day care licensing and training regulations, and Reed's research, "Child Day Care Policy Issues in Nebraska," has been drawn on in developing new legislative initiatives. Reed's work was also

featured on several Omaha television and radio interview shows.

Jerry Deichert spoke on demographic trends in Nebraska as a part of the "State of the State" conference sponsored by the UNL Bureau of Business Research in January.

Russell Smith conducted a workshop on "Strategic Planning for Small City Economic Development," at the December 1988 annual meeting of the National League of Cities. At the same conference *B.J. Reed* (Public Administration) chaired a workshop on community development.

Christine Reed provided a briefing to NLC's Small City Policy Council during the March Congressional-Cities Conference. The briefing focused on the S.T.A.R.T. Economic Development program and the partnership between LNM and CAUR.

Jerry Deichert continues to serve as a member of the Nebraska Fiscal Forecast Advisory Board. In March, he taped an interview for a special statewide interactive telecast and legislative hearing on property tax issues.

Russell Smith and *B.J. Reed* (Public Administration) organized a session on rural and small community economic development issues for the May meeting of the Nebraska chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Alice Schumaker was a guest on KETV Channel 7's public affairs show, "Viewpoint," in March. Schumaker was joined by George Dillard (Urban League of Nebraska, Inc.) and Wali Gill

(Education) in discussing CAUR's publication of *The State of Black Omaha: 1989*.

Dave Fifer, *Tim Himberger* and *Jerry Deichert* participated in the Southeast Regional State Data Center meeting in Memphis in April.

Phil Secret (CPACS Associate Dean) spoke on minority issues and the Omaha Minority Conditions & Research Conference on Cox Cable's "Minority Forum" show in May. Also participating were Erven McSwain (City of Omaha) and Marti Harrison (Native American Development Corporation).

Bob Blair, *Alice Schumaker* and *Russell Smith* have served as resource persons for two town hall meetings of the Governor's Rural Economic Action Team during April and May, in Stromsburg and St. Paul.

Alice Schumaker provided the program for recent meetings of the Chapell Chamber of Commerce and the Oxford Rotary Club. In Chapell Schumaker talked about small business' role in employment growth in Nebraska and Deuel County; in Oxford she talked about the S.T.A.R.T. program.

As for *Nebraska Policy Choices: 1988*, press coverage was extensive. A December press conference featured author *David Ambrose* and led to statewide coverage of his and Louis Pol's chapter, "The Importance of Interstate Highways to Economic Development in Nebraska." Press releases on all the other NPC '88 chapters have also been well covered in Nebraska's newspapers.

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