INTERNATIONAL
SPOTLIGHT

ZAMBIA WEEK AT UNL
“READY TO EDUCATE, READY TO LEARN”

Creating International Connections to Support the Everyday Lives of Children

The Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (CYFS), in collaboration with the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) and the UNL Office of Research, co-hosted a 2-day schedule of events to allow visiting faculty from the University of Zambia to observe educational models and programs, and interact with personnel in Lincoln, Nebraska related to educational service delivery for children.

“Ready to Educate” was the theme for visits on Day One. University of Zambia faculty participated in several discussion groups established to share cross-cultural information as well as highlight educational advances through diverse projects currently implemented throughout our region. The Great Plains Alliance was presented as a partnership established to increase the availability of obtaining an advanced degree in education though technology and in collaboration with various institutions of higher education throughout the Midwest. Other prominent discussions included the formal education system at Lincoln Public Schools, distance and internationally-based education, models of teaching and teacher training, and use of technology as service delivery to reach outlying areas. Further, Zambian faculty participated in tours of the Ruth Staples Lab in the UNL Child Development Center to observe the impact of student teaching on young children.

“Ready to Learn” was the theme for events on Day Two. Activities focused on meeting children where they are and preparing them to be ready to learn. Zambian professionals toured a Head Start classroom at Hartley Elementary School, a teen parent classroom at Lincoln High School, and a Community Learning Center at Huntington Elementary School. These settings provided opportunities to experience the efforts and results of current programs working toward advancing student learning. Professor Kayanga and Mr. Chakinaka also met with other UNL research teams to learn about proposal development and current research.

Zambia Week 2006 was successful in fostering new potential international collaborations surrounding the education of young children, youth, and families.