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Center for Applied Urban Research (CAUR)  
*University of Nebraska at Omaha*

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# CAUR

CENTER FOR APPLIED URBAN RESEARCH

# Review

Volume 1  
Number 1

December 1987

## Welcome to a new *Review*...

This issue of the *Review* represents a departure from past issues. Rather than reporting on a single topic, the *Review* now informs you six times a year about the activities and projects underway at CAUR.

CAUR continues to disseminate the results of research and service projects. Rather than doing this through the *Review*, we publish results in the *Nebraska Policy Choices* annual and special topic volumes; occasional papers; research monographs; *Focus*, a new publication devoted to our data bases; and a forthcoming bulletin series.

I hope you find the new *Review* to be informative and that it serves as a gateway to learn more about many of the activities that take place at CAUR.

Sincerely,

Russell L. Smith  
Director

## URBAN POLICY PROGRAM INITIATED

The Urban Policy Research Program at CAUR begins its first year of operation as a result of a \$150,000 state appropriation to UNO.

"The program will promote faculty research on policy options for solving problems related to social and economic conditions, minority conditions, social service delivery, and small town conditions in Nebraska," Chris Reed, associate director, CAUR, said.

CAUR administrators and faculty are currently reviewing 19 proposals from 12 departments and 6 colleges within the university. Grant awards will be announced in December.

For more information about this program, contact Russell Smith or Chris Reed at 554-8311.

## REED NAMED ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Christine (Chris) Howells Reed recently joined the staff of CAUR as the new associate director. As a faculty member in the public administration department at UNO, she has taught public personnel management, administrative law, community and regional planning, and urban studies.

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## NEBRASKA POLICY CHOICES RELEASED

CAUR is pleased to announce the release of *Nebraska Policy Choices: 1987*. Initiated in 1986, the series relies on university scholars to identify and analyze important policy options for the state--an approach described as "extraordinary" and "most valuable for helping Nebraskans make important decisions" by Kent Thomas of the *Beatrice Daily Sun*.

This year's chapters focus on the following critical issues: How to target state development assistance to communities with different growth patterns and varying capacities for economic development; How to assist the community banking system in dealing with deregulation and agricultural decline; Should the system for financing public elementary and secondary schools be revised; How can Nebraska's competitiveness in world agricultural markets be improved; How can the quality of Nebraska's underground water supply be protected; How can the use of jails and lockups for confining youths be reduced; and Does today's state legislature measure up to the original objectives of the unicameral movement?

*Nebraska Policy Choices: 1987* is available for \$9.95. If you missed the 1986 volume, the set can be purchased for \$15.95. For more information, call 402-554-8311.



## DATA BYTES

### Summary Tape Files Offer Detail

The 1980 census provides demographic and economic information needed to plan activities and to formulate policy.

CAUR maintains a collection of Summary Tape Files (STFs) released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The STFs maintained by CAUR contain detailed information about Nebraska and Iowa. CAUR can obtain similar data for other states.

The STFs contain geographic detail about towns and counties, individual blocks or groups of blocks (in some cities), zip codes, neighborhoods, and school districts.

For more information about census and other information services, contact Tim Hemberger at 554-8311.

### DEICHERT JOINS CAUR; GOVERNOR APPOINTS TO BOARD

Jerome A. (Jerry) Deichert was recently appointed senior research associate at CAUR. Prior to joining the staff of CAUR in July 1987, Deichert worked as a research associate at the Bureau of



## SYMPOSIUM JOINS LEGISLATORS AND EDUCATORS

The Peter Kiewit Conference Center will be the location of the 1987 Nebraska Legislative Issues Symposium on December 13-15. The conference, a joint venture of the Unicameral's Legislative Research Division and CAUR, will allow legislators to explore issues and options for solving the state's education and rural community development problems.

The conference will feature keynote addresses by Alan Rosenthal, director, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University; Michael Kirst, professor, Stanford University;

and Ken Deavers, director, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division, Economic Research Service, USDA.

Bob Bergland, executive vice-president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Frank Newman, president, Education Commission of the States; and legislative and academic experts from several states will make presentations also.

For more information, contact Russell Smith at 554-8311.

Business Research at UN-L for nearly 10 years.

Recently, Governor Orr appointed Deichert to the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board. The board assists the governor in developing estimates of state revenue.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to use my knowledge of the state's economy to help policymakers and taxpayers," Deichert said.

Deichert received his MA from UN-L, and is completing his Ph.D. His interest in economic and demographic issues in Nebraska has resulted in numerous published articles.

### CAUR JOINS NETWORK TO HELP SMALL GOVERNMENTS

CAUR has joined a group of university researchers and the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in developing the National Small Government Research Network (NSGRN). Organized in July 1986, the network provides a forum for collaborating on research and for exchanging ideas and information about rural and small governments in the United States.

"It's important for Nebraska to be a part of the national effort to learn about, monitor, and help small and rural local governments," said Russell Smith, CAUR director and co-chairperson of the network. "Nebraska has one of the largest numbers of local

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### INPUT-OUTPUT STUDY AVAILABLE

CAUR recently completed developing a set of input-output tables and multipliers for the Omaha MSA. The last set was developed by the center during the 1960s.

William J. Corcoran, economics professor at UNO and Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC, completed a manual for users of the input-output tables and multipliers.

"Multipliers are used to determine the full economic impact of a firm entering or leaving a region," Corcoran said. Multipliers are developed from input-output studies and account for the interactions of industries with industries and of industries with households, he explained.

For more information about this study or a copy of the report, call CAUR at 554-8311.

## SURVEYING THE SCENE

### Survey Reveals People Give When Asked

A recent CAUR telephone survey conducted for the American Red Cross revealed that the major reason respondents donated blood, volunteered, or gave money was because they were asked. The survey showed that 84 percent of the respondents thought that the Red Cross did an excellent or good job of helping people.

"The survey results gave us invaluable insight into how important asking is. People respond by just being asked to donate," according to Mary Tourek, public information and public relations director of American Red Cross Blood Services, Midwest Region. Tourek said the Heartland Chapter will use this information to

establish objectives and develop long-range plans.

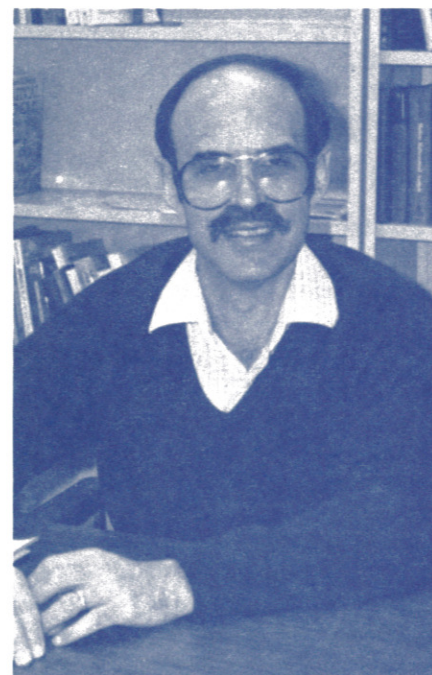
"During the 1988-89 fiscal year we will be looking to do follow-up work to build on what we have learned in the past," Tourek said.

### CAUR SURVEY RESEARCH SERVICES

CAUR provides survey research services to local and state governmental units, public agencies, and non-profit organizations that need information for strategic planning and program decisionmaking.

For more information, call Carole Davis at 554-8311.

## SPOTLIGHT ON--



Donald N. Baum, associate professor of economics at UNO, said he has learned a lot about tax systems in Omaha and Nebraska by working with CAUR on updating

### Don Baum

a revenue study for the city of Omaha.

"Also, it was a chance to survey the local terrain," he said.

The study, based partly on a comparison of Omaha with cities of similar size and metropolitan area, analyzes Omaha's options for developing revenue sources.

Baum, a California native and former associate professor at Temple University, said Omaha is "...a very pleasant place. I get the sense people are more than willing to help you here. It's a change from the East Coast where people enjoy saying no."

Baum's research interests include the economic effects of state and local incentives to increase business and the effects of expenditure levels on the quality of services provided by state and local governments.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING No Quick Fix

Helping Nebraska's communities to help themselves is the theme of CAUR's Strategic Planning for Economic Development Program. Nebraska is one of only a few states that provide guidance on economic development to rural communities facing economic crisis.

The process is not a simple quick fix, according to Alice Schumaker, project coordinator. "It involves 25 or more people, such as community leaders, citizens, elected officials, and business leaders participating in several planning sessions," she said.

Participants address specific issues based on local circumstances and formulate an action plan for economic development. An integral part of this process is developing a local data base that encompasses the attitudes of business owners and community residents; the condition of community facilities and services; the types of local development activities; and trends in the area's economic base, per capita income, labor force population, and revenue sources.

"We try to get people to understand how their communities fit into the state and national picture and then determine how they can best approach economic development issues," Schumaker said.

CAUR recently completed a strategic planning project with the communities of LaVista and Papillion. At a recent meeting, Sarpy County Board Chairperson, Nancy Thompson, stated that this process accelerated the economic development of the area "by quite a few years." Currently, the center is working on a similar project with Auburn.

If you would like more information about this program, contact Alice Schumaker at 554-8311.



**CAUR Joins Network to  
Help Small Governments**  
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governments per capita in the United States. By participating in NSGRN, CAUR will be in a better position to help these governmental units in the future," he said.

A national survey of 2,000 counties and 1,000 municipalities will be conducted in early 1988.

For additional information, contact Russell Smith at 554-8311.

**Reed Named Associate Director**  
(continued from front cover)

Her diverse interests come from a variety of academic and work

experiences: A Ph.D. in political science from Brown University; staff work at the Bureau of Government Research at the University of Rhode Island, the National Community Development Association, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and consulting work in community and economic development for the National League of Cities, the National Governors Association, and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Among Reed's goals at the center are to expand assistance to communities statewide and to help promote faculty research that is both policy relevant and original academic research.

**FOCUS TO BE INITIATED**

*Focus*, one of CAUR's new publication series, will be mailed December 15. Each issue will provide in-depth information about a data base that can be used to address specific issues of local, state, or regional interest.

In the first issue, Jerry Deichert explains how CAUR's targeting data base can be used to assist local and regional economic development efforts. He shows how concentrating activities on targeted industries can be successful and how it can stretch limited resources.

For more information about this data base call Jerry Deichert. To have your name added to the mailing list for *Focus*, call June Turner at 554-8311.

**REVIEW**

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