

Lincoln's Free Tax Preparation Services

The Human Services Federation and the Lincoln Tax Assistance EITC Campaign will provide quality free tax preparation services at sites across Lincoln through April 16. Last year community volunteers and organizations filed taxes for more than 3,700 individuals and families and returned more than \$3.7 million dollars back into Lincoln's economy.

While the service is open to all taxpayers with basic individual tax returns, the campaign is specifically focused on serving people eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low to moderate incomes. Families making under \$36,000 (\$38,348 married filing jointly) may be eligible for a refund of up to \$4,563.

What You Need to Bring to Tax Preparation Sites

- photo ID and Social Security Card (or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers) for yourself, your spouse and dependents (children, etc.)
- wage and earnings statements (W-2)
- interest & dividend statements (Forms 1099)
- a copy of last year's return
- any other information concerning your income and expenses for 2006

Lincoln VITA Program Tax Sites and Hours

All sites provide electronic filing unless noted. No appointment necessary!

ANDERSON LIBRARY
3635 Touzalin Avenue
• Wednesdays 5:30-8pm
• Sundays 1:30-4pm (E-filing closes Mar. 4)

ASIAN CENTER
2615 'O' Street
• Mon-Fri, by appointment only, call 477-3446

BENNETT MARTIN LIBRARY
14 & N Streets
• Tuesdays 1-3:30pm & 5:30-8pm
• Wednesdays 1-3:30pm (E-filing through February only)
• Sundays 1:30-4pm (E-filing closes Mar. 4)

EISELEY LIBRARY
1530 Superior Street
• Mondays 5:30-8pm
• Thursdays 1-3:30pm & 5:30-8pm

EL CENTRO DE LAS AMERICAS
2615 'O' St., Suite D
• Monday-Friday

LINCOLN ACTION PROGRAM
210 'O' Street
• Mondays 5:30-8pm
• Tuesdays 1:30-4pm
• Fridays 9am-11:30am

SALVATION ARMY
2625 Potter St. (E-filing closes Feb. 28)
• Tuesdays 12-2:30pm
• Thursdays 12-2:30pm

US BANK
56 & O Street (use east door)
• Tuesdays 10am-1pm
• Wednesdays 10am-1pm & 5:30-8pm
• Thursdays 10am-1pm
• Saturdays 9-11:30am

UNL Super Site Offers Free Child Care and Parking

University of Nebraska-Lincoln has teamed up with The Human Services Federation and the Lincoln Tax Assistance EITC Campaign to provide free tax preparation. At their "Super Site," free child care and parking will be available.

Julie Dierberger of UNL Service-Learning & Volunteer Services is coordinating the effort. "The first return we filed generated \$5,500 for a single parent who earns \$12,000 annually," she says. "The average return is taking 30 to 45 minutes. We have seven stations of volunteers who prepare and file taxes. The College of Education and Human Science Learning Community provides volunteer child care and the children are having a great time."

Over 50 UNL students, faculty and staff are serving as volunteers. Service learning benefits both the community and the students—it can be an important dimension of a student's college experience.



UNL Law student Randall Lee Eager, Jr. (center) prepares a tax return for a Lincoln family.

UNL Tax Site Upcoming Dates

FEBRUARY 19-24

Nebraska Union—Colonial Room, 14th & R Streets

- Monday-Friday, 5-9 p.m.
- Saturday, 1-6 p.m.

Directions to the Nebraska Union (located on UNL's City Campus)—from 16th or 17th Street, turn west onto R Street. The Nebraska Union is immediately past the Nebraska Historical Society building. Free parking is available as parking meters have been reserved on the north side of R Street in front of the Nebraska Union.

EXTENSION NEWS

Arends Wins Statewide Extension Volunteer Award

Deb Arends of Lincoln was recognized with a statewide Outstanding Volunteer Award presented by the Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB) at their annual meeting in January. NACEB presents four awards each year, with only one presented to a volunteer.

Deb has volunteered with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County for nearly 17 years. In that time, she has impacted the lives of thousands of youth and adults. "Deb is a true product of the extension program. She shares her time, talents and passion for helping others through serving as an extension and community volunteer," says Extension Educator Lorene Bartos.

Deb currently serves as president of the Lancaster County Extension Board. Fellow board member Dean Lesoing says, "Deb is a concerned citizen and adds valuable input when decisions are to be made where to invest resources in the community. She is a valuable member of the board and has made me a better board member with her insight and



Deb Arends (center) receives the Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB) Outstanding Volunteer Award for 2007 from NACEB President Gordon Bradley (left) and State Senator Deb Fischer (right) of Valentine.

intellect."

For over 13 years, Deb made numerous contributions to the 4-H youth program as club leader, project leader, 4-H Council board member, County Fair superintendent, County Fair Food Booth volunteer, County & State Fair judge, VIPS committee member, event organizer, master of ceremonies, Clover College instructor and Earth Wellness Festival presenter. An interior designer with Arends Interiors Inc., Deb gener-

ously shared her professional skills by teaching youth or helping with set up for 4-H events.

"She is a mover and a shaker — has incredible energy, creativity and always inspires those around her," says Extension Associate Tracy Kulm.

Prior to her work with Lancaster County 4-H, Deb judged at the Custer County Fair for several years.

Congratulations to Deb! Extension appreciates her time and talents!

New and Outgoing Lancaster County Extension Board Members

UNL Extension in Lancaster County welcomes its newest extension board appointments—recently appointed to a three year term is George Bool. George is a long time farmer northwest of Lincoln. Reappointed to second, three-year terms were Carna Pfeil and Clarice Steffens.

Extension board members assist extension staff in establishing and accomplishing extension program goals and objectives. The work is in



George Bool joined the extension board.

partnership with UNL Extension on priority issues through educational programs in agriculture, horticulture, pest management, nutrition and food safety, family living and 4-H youth development.

Outgoing member of the board, Jay Wilkinson was recognized during the January board meeting for his dedication and service to UNL Extension in Lancaster County.



Outgoing board member Jay Wilkinson (center) was recognized for his outstanding service to extension. Also pictured is board president Clarice Steffens (left) and Extension Educator Gary C. Bergman (right).