



EMILY NOHR/CORRESPONDENT

WAYNE DRUMMOND (center), dean of the UNL College of Architecture, and Gov. Dave Heineman visit during an event Thursday afternoon at the State Capitol that examined ways Albion could better compete.

University students help find ways for Albion to compete

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COLN — Innovative and friendly designs created by students of Nebraska-Lincoln architecture were on display Thursday at the state capitol.

Guests at the event included Gov. Dave Heineman, students and faculty from UNL and residents of Albion.

The designs are part of "Re-envisioning Albion," a project led by a UNL architecture professor and fifth- and sixth-year architecture students.

The project is intended to help residents of the 1,600-population city explore the possibilities for

"Once they had a feeling what Albion was like and what its traditions were about, they could begin."

PAUL HOSFORD
ALBION RESIDENT

business. The professor suggested they meet with German eco-architect and UNL professor Martin Despang to form a partnership.

After one meeting and a trip to Albion, Despang and Wayne Drummond, the dean of the UNL College of Architecture,

met last semester at UNL.

Kory Randa, a fifth-year architecture student and Verdigris native, said he's learned a lot about architecture since his first visit to Albion.

"I kind of knew the area," Randa said, "but knowing how to fix a small town is tricky."

Albion, like many small towns in Nebraska, has seen a small return rate of its young people in recent years. That, with the aging infrastructure of many of its buildings, is making the city less appealing to young professionals and families.

Andrew Devine, the city's administrator, is hopeful that these new projects will inspire