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Crowd programs into UNMC robotics at State Fair

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By Denton Cushing
denton.cushing@theindependent.com

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A roomful of people programmed themselves into the University of Nebraska Medical Center's robotic surgery presentation instructed by Shane Ferritor, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln engineer, today at the State Fair.

"It was very interesting and very informative," Tamara Tibbles of Macedonia, Iowa, said. "I learned that you can go through a surgery without the big incisions, less healing time, pain and discomfort."

"I liked the presentation, and it was very informative," Jan Karrer of Grand Island said. "I didn't know much about robots at all. I knew they were working on them, but I didn't know what they did."

"I thought the presentation was excellent," Twyla Unruh of Central City said. "He told the way it was back in the '70s and '80s and showed what is like now."

The presentation included background information about surgical technology, pictures, illustrations and videos.

Tibbles said she was surprised they could actually get a robot inside a body without making a large incision going through muscle.

"I was surprised about the amount of space they can give themselves to work inside you," Karrer added. "I think, if this really goes through and develops, the recovery would be so much easier and so much better and there would especially be less infection."

"I am glad they had something like this, because I think even people who haven't been associated with a hospital want to know what's going on if something happens to them," Unruh said.

The short presentation showed video of the robots in action, both in a training exercise and removing a gall bladder from a live pig.

"It's just amazing that you can have a robot go inside you and do a surgery," Tibbles said.

"I didn't realize that engineers were building the robots," Karrer noted. "I had no idea exactly what they can do. I was impressed, and I really enjoyed it."



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