



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852

E-mail: nhc@nebraskahumanities.org

Website: www.nebraskahumanities.org

N E W S R E L E A S E

For release: September 24, 2008

Contact: Jane Renner Hood, (402) 474-2131, ext. 107

Gergen lecture to be broadcast statewide

The 13th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities, featuring David Gergen, will be broadcast at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 30 on NET Radio and at noon Nov. 3 on KIOS in Omaha.

Speaking Sept. 18 to an audience of more than 2,000 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts on the subject of "Leadership in America," Gergen listed the daunting challenges facing the next president—a nation dangerously in debt, global warming, nuclear proliferation, enormous Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security obligations that are unfunded today, huge unresolved energy challenges, war, unresolved health care and education needs, and declining U.S. prestige.

"David Gergen stretched some minds in Lincoln last week," wrote Don Walton of the Lincoln Journal Star in a Monday column. "Although today's spotlight shines on the remarkable 2008 presidential race, the real story is what the winner faces next year."

The lecture was simulcast at six locations statewide, including Omaha, Wayne, North Platte, Columbus, Kearney and Scottsbluff. A fundraising dinner at Embassy Suites in Lincoln before the lecture was attended by 520 people.

"The benefit dinner raised \$120,000 for the Nebraska Humanities Council's work," according to Jane Renner Hood, NHC executive director. "We are so grateful to our underwriters and to all who bought tickets for the dinner for their support of our statewide programming. We would not be able to provide the high-quality educational programs all across Nebraska if it weren't for their generosity."

Gergen was director of communications for President Ronald Reagan and held advisory positions in the administrations of presidents Nixon and Ford. He was counselor to President Clinton on both foreign policy and domestic affairs, then as special international adviser to the president and to Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He is editor-at-large at U.S. News & World Report and senior political analyst for CNN. He also is professor of public service at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and director of its Center for Public Leadership. In the fall of 2000, he published the best-selling book author of the bestseller "Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership, Nixon to Clinton."

The lecture was presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council, the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues and the University of Nebraska.

###