



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 500
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

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Contact: Erika Hamilton, (402) 474-2131 ext. 104

Prime Time literacy program goes to Columbus

Prime Time Family Reading Time, a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program for low-literacy, low-income families, will be presented in Columbus with opportunities for both Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

The Columbus Public Library will host the award-winning series on six consecutive Tuesday evenings April 25 through May 30.

The six-week series of reading and discussion is designed for families with children ages six to 10. It includes sessions on fairness, greed, courage, dreams, and determination. All books are read and discussed in both English and Spanish.

Each program begins at 6:30 p.m. with a light dinner and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's literature. A discussion leader and a storyteller introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children, and a library representative introduces families to library resources and services.

Younger siblings participate in separate pre-reading activities.

Prime Time reinforces the role of the family in society, encourages parents and children to form bonds over reading and learning together, and teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics. The program also encourages low-literacy, low-income parents to enter or continue their own educational programs to improve their employment opportunities.

"It is so important for children to learn the joys of reading early in life, especially when it involves reading and discussing books with their families. A love for learning through reading has a positive impact on how well a child does in school," said NHC Program Officer Erika Hamilton. "We're pleased to be working with the Columbus Public Library to bring this exciting family literacy program to the citizens of Columbus."

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Prime Time has been held in Lincoln, Omaha, Scottsbluff, Lexington, Grand Island, South Sioux City and other Nebraska communities over the last several years.

Bilingual Prime Time programs are sponsored by the NHC, the State of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Library Commission. Other sponsors for Prime Time in Columbus include the Columbus Library Foundation, Columbus Bank and Trust, Runza Restaurants, Sleep Inn & Suites Hotel-Columbus, and the Cornhusker Goodwill fund.

The NHC is a private, statewide, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information about Prime Time in Columbus or to register to participate, call (402) 564-0986.

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