



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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# **N E W S R E L E A S E**

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## **Prime Time pilot program for Native Americans in Scottsbluff**

Lakota Lutheran Center, 1200 East Overland in Scottsbluff, is offering Nebraska's first Prime Time Family Reading Time designed for Native American families and others who want to participate.

Prime Time is a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program that helps strengthen participants' interest and skills in reading and talking about books. The six-week series is offered free to families whose children ages 6 to 10 struggle with reading.

Lakota Lutheran Center will host the new series on Sunday afternoons, Nov. 6 through Dec. 11. Each session begins with lunch at noon and continues with storytelling and discussion from 1-3 p.m., based on award-winning children's books. Selected books will help families discuss themes such as humility, equality, bravery, honesty, trust, generosity, fortitude and goals.

The last session, Dec. 11, will be held at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library.

Storyteller Teri Ramirez and discussion leader Andrea Miller will share with parents the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children. Families will also learn about library resources and services. Separate pre-reading activities will be available for younger siblings.

"We're not showing participants how to read, but why—for enjoyment, for insight, for conversation," said Erika Hamilton, NHC director of literary programs and state coordinator of Prime Time. "We look at situations in books and ask, 'Why did this happen?' 'Has this happened to you?' 'What would you do?' This kind of analysis helps students succeed in all of their classes, not just in reading and writing."

A 10-year impact study found that students who participated in Prime Time during their early elementary years outperformed their peers on grade level content in standardized exams. Prime Time students scored higher in language arts and reading, mathematics, science, life science and other subjects. The study, published in 2010, was conducted in Louisiana where the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities developed Prime Time in 1991.

In Nebraska, more than 75 bilingual and English-only Prime Time series have been held in 14 public libraries, eight elementary schools and two community centers since 2002, including programs in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, Norfolk and Alliance. This Prime Time is the first in Nebraska to focus on Native American stories, but five bilingual Prime Time series for Spanish- and English-speaking families have been offered in the Scottsbluff/Gering area. The Scottsbluff Public Library was one of three Nebraska libraries in 2004 to pilot the bilingual program.

The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library will host another Prime Time series Jan. 17 through Feb. 21, with new themes and titles.

Prime Time is sponsored in Nebraska by the NHC with funding from the State of Nebraska, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Carol Gendler. Primary sponsors and funders for Prime Time in Scottsbluff include the Lakota Lutheran Center, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, C.W. Yount Foundation, and Target.

The NHC is a private, statewide, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information or to register to participate, contact Theresa Stands, coordinator of the Native American Prime Time, at (308) 635-1071.