



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: April 8, 2011

Contact: Chris Sommerich, (402) 474-2131, ext. 105

Sower Award nominations are due June 1

The Nebraska Humanities Council and Foundation are seeking nominations for the annual Sower Award in the Humanities, which recognizes individuals, institutions, businesses and communities that have made a significant contribution to public understanding of the humanities in Nebraska.

The Sower Award will be presented during ceremonies at the 16th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities Oct. 5 at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the lecture will feature distinguished American historian Eric Foner speaking on the subject of his award-winning new book, "The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery."

Sower Award nominations must be postmarked no later than June 1. For more information or to receive a nomination form, contact the Nebraska Humanities Council at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330, Lincoln, NE 68508; call (402) 474-2131 ext. 110; or e-mail julie@nebraskahumanities.org. The nomination form also can be downloaded at www.nebraskahumanities.org/governor/award.html.

Previous awards have recognized the work of humanities faculty who have taken the humanities to the public beyond their classroom, volunteers who have enhanced the cultural life of their state, journalists and filmmakers who have brought the humanities to bear on important public issues, and philanthropists who have contributed to the cultural vitality of Nebraska. Other winners include museums, historical societies and libraries that have expanded their mission to include active collaborations in humanities programming with schools and other organizations; businesses and foundations whose support for the humanities has enriched Nebraskans' lives; and communities that have incorporated local ethnic and historical identity in community planning and economic development.

Among individuals who have won the Sower Award are philanthropist Dick Holland, Native American leader Charles Trimble, public TV pioneer Ron Hull, state Sens. LaVon Crosby and Don Pederson, historian Gary Moulton, and poet Ted Kooser. Winning institutions include El Museo Latino, the Omaha World-Herald, and NET. Cozad and Gering/Scottsbluff are among the communities that have won the award.

###