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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Native leader Trimble wins 2007 Sower Award

LINCOLN—The Nebraska Humanities Council announced today that Charles E. “Chuck” Trimble of Omaha will receive its 2007 Sower Award in the Humanities.

Trimble will be honored Oct. 2 at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, in conjunction with the 12th Annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities. Michael Beschloss, author of the current best-seller “Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989,” will deliver the lecture, entitled “Great Presidents Past and Present.”

A respected and honored member of the Oglala Sioux Nation who has been active on both the national and state level on behalf of Native Americans, Trimble is the founder of two companies focused on economic development for Native American reservations, as well as the Red Willow Institute, which provides technical and management assistance to Native American non-profit organizations. He was executive director of the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, D.C., representing the vast majority of tribes in the U.S. He founded the American Indian Press Association, now the Native American Journalists Association.

Trimble is past president of the board of directors of the John G. Neihardt Foundation and the Nebraska State Historical Society. He also has served on the board of directors of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, the Nebraska Humanities Council, and the board of trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He has spent a lifetime promoting the common history of the Great Plains to create bridges between Native and non-Native peoples. His understanding contributed to the American Folklife Center’s work in preserving, maintaining, and returning cultural documents to American Indian communities. At the Neihardt Center, Trimble has encouraged young Native writers to develop their skills and publish their work. He has worked with the Nebraska State Historical Society to equip Nebraska teachers to better teach about the Indian experience in American history.

Most recently, Trimble collaborated with Opera Omaha to create “Wakonda’s Dream,” inspired by the trial of Standing Bear. Working with the composer, librettist, and stage director for nearly four years, Trimble drew upon his deeply personal experiences growing up as a Lakota Sioux, attending Indian school, and living with and observing the realities of contemporary Native American life to create a profoundly moving work of art about assimilation that successfully bridged Native and non-Native experience.

The Nebraska Humanities Council annually honors individuals, institutions, businesses and communities with Sower Awards for contributions to public understanding of the humanities in Nebraska, based on nominations and letters of support from the citizens of Nebraska. The Sower Award is an original bronze sculpture by Nebraska-born artist Sandra Dunn Mahoney.

Presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), Creighton University and the University of Nebraska, the Oct. 2 evening lecture will be free and open to the public.

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