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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Philanthropist Dick Holland wins 2009 Sower Award

LINCOLN—The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) announced today that Omaha philanthropist Richard Holland will receive its 2009 Sower Award in the Humanities.

Holland will be honored Nov. 4 at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, in conjunction with the 14th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities. Matt Miller, author of "The Tyranny of Dead Ideas: Letting Go of the Old Ways of Thinking to Unleash a New Prosperity," published earlier this year, will deliver the lecture. The National Chamber of Commerce named the book a "must-read" book for 2009. Miller also wrote the best-selling "The 2% Solution: Fixing America's Problems in Ways that Liberals and Conservatives Can Love."

In nominating Holland, Carol Gendler of Omaha said, "Everyone knows of Dick Holland's generosity to a broad range of organizations that offer the best in the arts and the humanities. But Dick should also be honored for his commitment to sharing his intellectual curiosity with his fellow Nebraskans through the Holland Lecture series, which brings some of the most stimulating and provocative thinkers to Omaha for everyone to enjoy at no charge."

Holland's generous philanthropy, with that of his deceased wife, Mary, is recognized publicly in Omaha's Holland Center for the Performing Arts, a state-of-the-art facility that features performers ranging from Garrison Keillor to Yo-Yo Ma and the home of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra.

Holland's advocacy for the nation's first public-private endowment fund to benefit both the humanities council and arts council, has resulted in an additional \$1.5 million appropriation to the state fund and \$1.5 million contributed to the private side of the Nebraska Cultural Endowment during the past two years, increasing the original \$5 million state endowment created by the Legislature in 1998 to \$6.5 million in support of the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Humanities Council.

The Nebraska Humanities Council annually honors individuals, institutions, businesses and communities with its Sower Award 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 and Foundation, the University of Nebraska and Valmont Industries, the Nov. 4 evening lecture is free and open to the public.

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