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## **Joslyn Institute Receives Nebraska Humanities Grant for Resources Program**

OMAHA —The Nebraska Humanities Council has awarded the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities a \$6,000 grant for the production of a video program about five critical Nebraska resources: land, water, food, materials and energy. The video will be designed to be shown on Nebraska Educational Television; on DVD to students and organizations throughout the state; and on the Joslyn Institute website (<http://www.joslyninstitute.org>) for global viewing.

“By bringing public attention to vital environmental issues, we intend to broaden the general public’s knowledge of complex issues pertinent to our shared future,” said W. Cecil Steward, President and CEO of the Joslyn Institute (JISC).

For nearly four years, JISC has conducted workshops and conferences across the state, focusing on the development of community leadership in sustainability and on the dual issue of conservation/development of our critical resources. Many participants in these conferences will be featured in the video production.

“Our aim, in part, is to demonstrate and thus encourage constructive discussion,” Steward said, “The participants in these conferences who will be featured on the video are drawing from their own experiences, making the issues discussed in these conversations accessible and tangible to others. This sharing of experiences helps Nebraskans to better work together to meet community goals. That improves the quality of life in the community.

“And, taken together,” he said, “These individual outcomes also contribute to the local economy.”

Decisions that maintain and improve the quality of our natural resources benefit the economy. A 2008 study assessed the connection between natural resource amenities and economic development in Nebraska and concluded that the quality of our state’s natural resources directly impacts the state’s ability to attract and retain young entrepreneurs.

This educational video program will be designed to meet many audiences, including, but not limited to, viewers of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) Public Media Project, area educators and their students, and environmental and civic leaders interested in stimulating dialogues in their communities.

This project is intended to facilitate the following outcomes:

- Contribute to local economies
- Contribute to improving the quality of life in communities
- Broaden the general public's knowledge about vital Nebraska resources, how they may be developed in a sustainable way, and how they can be conserved
- Encourage constructive discussion
- Increase capacity of people to work together to define/meet community needs
- Help people understand their own experiences by considering the experiences of others
- Increase awareness of the work of the Joslyn Institute and of the Nebraska Humanities Council

Field of Visions, a video production company in Lincoln with experience in educational videos, is in charge of the production. Steward will be one of many commentators and experts featured in the video. Others include experts in hydrogeology, communications, architecture, food production and cooperatives, energy policy, and sustainability leadership.

Printed materials will also accompany the physical DVD shared with educators, formulated to stimulate in-class dialogue. These include:

- Discussion points
- White papers on the five critical resources
- A series of articles bringing together the ideas, experiences, thoughts and conclusions of participants in the JISC Conversations Conferences on the five resources.

Further information on the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities can be found at <http://www.joslyninstitute.com>

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W. Cecil Steward is the founder, President and CEO of the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities. Steward is emeritus Dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and is a world-renowned expert on sustainable communities. He is a United Nations envoy to many countries on issues of sustainability, planning and design, and best practices, and is a consultant to the United States Capitol on these issues. To arrange an interview with Cecil Steward, please phone the contacts listed in the header above.