

**Cooper Foundation
870 Wells Fargo Center
1248 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2007**

COOPER FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$330,000 IN MARCH

Cooper Foundation awarded grants totaling \$332,624 in March to support a variety of projects including protection of and education about rare Nebraska landscapes, innovative K-12 and post-secondary education in Lincoln and throughout the state, and cultural programs in the humanities and fine and performing arts. The Cooper Foundation was founded in 1934 and has granted over \$16 million to benefit the people of Nebraska. The Foundation makes quarterly grant awards supporting education, human services, the arts, the humanities, and the environment in Lincoln and Lancaster County, and throughout Nebraska. For more information about grant guidelines and application deadlines visit the Foundation's website, www.cooperfoundation.org.

Grants approved, March 2007

Grantees are located in Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

Doane College, Crete, Nebraska \$21,350
To support the creation of learning communities within the academic program, to improve learning and strengthen students' connections to the college environment.

Girl Scouts - Homestead Council \$10,000
To assist an effort to build capacity within the Girl Scouts councils to assure consistent, high quality programming, staffing, marketing and fundraising.

Lincoln Literacy Council \$10,000
Support for the Refugee Women's Group, an employment-focused English language study group to help refugee women become literate in verbal and written English, obtain employability skills, and understand the cultural norms of life in Lincoln.

Lincoln Municipal Band \$5,000
To support the 2007 Summer Concert Series, the 100th Anniversary Season. The oldest professional music organization in Nebraska, the Lincoln Municipal Band serves thousands of people each summer with free Sunday night concerts in Antelope Park in July and August.

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools \$50,000
To support the first major gifts campaign of the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools which will enhance reading, math and science programs, expand opportunities for low-

income students and families, and to provide additional resources to schools and teachers so every student has a superb learning environment.

Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, Nebraska \$10,000
Support for the 2007 Great Plains Theatre Conference featuring celebrated playwright Edward Albee, May 26 - June 4, 2007 at the Fort Omaha campus. The conference, with an emphasis on new and emerging playwrights, includes workshops, symposia, performances, and panels at which participants can meet and interact with award-winning playwrights, directors, producers, and actors, as well as critics and scholars.

Nebraska Humanities Council \$30,000
Support for humanities programming across the state, many focused on environmental issues. These include Capitol Forum on America's Future, a program for high school students to examine key global issues faced by the United States; Museum on Main Street's "Between Fences" exhibition for rural audiences and small museums addressing the cultural history of fences and land use; The Good Life: Rural-Urban-Suburban program focusing on scarce natural resources; Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua 2008-2010, an opportunity for Nebraskans to interact with scholars and learn about historical figures in a stimulating and entertaining atmosphere; and a project to simulcast the E.N. Thompson Forum lectures to venues across the state.

Nebraska Land Trust \$20,000
Support for an effort to protect the Schramm Bluffs area in Sarpy County, Nebraska, a biologically unique area that includes eastern hardwood forest, tallgrass prairie, and three kinds of shrubland, providing essential habitat for many species of plants and animals. Working with the support of local landowners, the Nebraska Land Trust will obtain conservation easements to preserve the natural amenities and scenic vistas of the lower Platte region between Lincoln and Omaha, used for outdoor recreation by over two million people each year.

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum \$5,000
Toward "Real & Imagined Landscapes," an exhibition of sketches and journal entries from noted Nebraska landscape artist Keith Jacobshagen, in eight different venues across Nebraska in 2007 and 2008.

Nebraska Water Center Foundation, Ogallala, Nebraska \$25,000
For the creation of educational programming about water use, resources, and conservation at the Lake McConoughy Visitor/Water Interpretive Center.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, Nebraska \$25,000
Operating support for Spring Creek Prairie, an 808-acre tallgrass prairie nature preserve that offers year-round nature education programs for schools and the public.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, International Quilt Study Center \$21,274
Support for "Drawing Connections: the Art and Design of Quilts," the inaugural exhibition in the new International Quilt Study Center Museum, opening in early 2008.

Wayne State College Foundation, Wayne, Nebraska \$50,000
Support for equipment for the Carhart Science Building at Wayne State, part of a \$19 million renovation project to enhance the science program, the fastest growing major at Wayne State College.

YMCA of Lincoln \$50,000
Support toward after school programming for a new YMCA that will be located with the new middle school to be built in northwest Lincoln. This unique public, private, and nonprofit partnership will allow the YMCA and the middle school to share resources and common facilities and will provide much needed community-based family recreation facilities to this area of Lincoln.

**For clarification or additional information
contact Art Thompson, President
Office: 402-476-7571, Fax: 402-476-2356
EMAIL: art@cooperfoundation.org
URL: <http://www.cooperfoundation.org>**