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GPTC PLAYWRIGHT AWARDS ANNOUNCED

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College (MCC) hosted the Great Plains Theatre Conference (GPTC), May 23-30, 2009. The Conference featured workshops and play reviews for playwrights and performances for community members. The GPTC concluded with a gala event on Saturday, May 30, where awards were presented to selected playwrights from the Conference.

The Holland New Voices award recognized the five MainStage playwrights who were selected to participate at the GPTC. These individuals were chosen as having the five top-rated plays out of more than 400 plays submitted to the Conference. The Holland New Voices award recipients were Mark Donahue (Chicago, Ill.), Ivan Fuller (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Halley Wegryn Gross (New York, N.Y.), Rick Mitchell (Los Angeles, Calif.) and Jessica Jill Turner (Los Angeles, Calif.). These emerging playwrights were awarded a sculptured piece created by local artist John Prouty in recognition of their work. Each playwright received a \$200 honorarium in honor of their selection.

Award-winning playwright Theresa Rebeck was presented with the Simon Honored Playwright award. Rebeck's work was featured in two evening performance at the Conference. Rebeck also served as a panelist for the MainStage Series. Dick Holland and Fred and Eve Simon were honored at the gala for their on-going support of the GPTC.

The mission of the GPTC is to recognize the work of renowned American playwrights while fostering the work of new and emerging playwrights. For more information on the 2009 Great Plains Theatre Conference, visit www.mccneb.edu/theatreconference.