



May 7, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Sheila O'Connor

Executive Director, Office of Public Affairs

402-457-2733

soconnor7@mccneb.edu

mccneb.edu

MCC 2016 community festival receives \$30,000 grant

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College's Great Plains Theatre Conference is the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Grant Award of \$30,000 for its 2016 PlayFest, a free community theatre festival that takes place each spring.

PlayFest explores how theatre can be produced in a nontraditional way and seeks to deepen the connection between community and the arts. Performances are held in uncommon spaces with a connection to the play being performed.

"The NEA is committed to advancing learning, fueling creativity, and celebrating the arts in cities and towns across the United States. Funding these projects like the one at MCC represents an investment in both local communities and our nation's creative vitality," said Jane Chu, NEA chairman.

The NEA will make 1,023 awards totaling \$74.3 million nationwide in this funding round.

"We are very appreciative of this grant award," said Kevin Lawler, GPTC producing artistic director. "It's an exciting time of year for us with this year's PlayFest approaching, and this award for 2016 only increases that excitement."

2015 GPTC PlayFest will be held May 24-29. For more information on the Great Plains Theatre Conference, visit mccneb.edu/gptc or [facebook.com/GreatPlainsTheatreConference](https://www.facebook.com/GreatPlainsTheatreConference).

###

Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.

