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HIGH PRAIRIE WINS PRIZE IN HISTORY CHANNEL'S NATIONAL CONTEST

BISMARCK, ND, JUNE 25, 2009: Frances Leach High Prairie Arts & Science Complex has been awarded second place in the HISTORY Channel's national contest for educational programs commemorating Abraham Lincoln.

The History Channel's 'Give a Lincoln for Lincoln' contest required entrants to describe a lesson plan or educational enrichment that would engage learners in an "innovative plan that covers some aspect of Abraham Lincoln's life, legacy and/or political career." High Prairie's awarded submission in the elementary category, *Lincoln Life Lessons*, was created in honor of the Lincoln Bicentennial. Having engaged hundreds of elementary children throughout the region in February 2009, the Complex's hands-on program will receive a cash grant along with a Lincoln DVD set.

Steve Stark, the renowned historical illustrator and presenter during the February presentations in Bismarck, supports wholeheartedly the judges' decision. He notes, "The event geared primarily toward school children was a highly creative, factual, participatory experience in important aspects of Lincoln's life, death and legacy. History was presented as a fascinating study that linked events of the past with contemporary life, art, theater, dance, medicine, science and more."

Frances Leach High Prairie Arts and Science Complex includes five anchor organizations that call the facility home – Central Dakota Children's Choir, Gateway to Science, the Shade Tree Players, Suzuki School of Music, and Theo Art School – all of whom provided enrichment activities during the program. The *Lincoln Life Lessons* project received support from Bismarck Parks & Recreation District, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the North Dakota Humanities Council, Dr. Thomas & Katie Hutchens, Starion Financial, BNC National Bank, and many other community partners.

As a one who has presented history programs to children throughout the region for decades, Stark concludes, "History tends to be a frightening or boring prospect for many students. *Lincoln Life Lessons* allowed kids to realize that learning can be fun, engaging and meaningful. I wish this identical program could be experienced by every student in the nation."

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Central Dakota Children's Choir - Gateway to Science – Shade Tree Players – Suzuki School of Music – Theo Art School