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**Storyteller honored for outstanding contributions**

JONESBOROUGH, TN July 1, 2011 - The National Storytelling Network (NSN [www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)) recently announced that Susan O'Halloran of Evanston, IL is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award. This award is presented to artists who are "recognized by their peers to be master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling."

O'Halloran is a storyteller who seamlessly melds artistic excellence with the passionate pursuit of social justice and racial healing. She has said, "I think teachers struggle with how to present racism and other social ills because today's "isms" don't need blatant discriminatory laws. Stories can reveal today's invisible setups that we've inherited from the inequities of the past. Storytelling can do this in entertaining ways that help students make sense out of today's conflicts while tempting them with delicious visions of how things could be. This is how we create aware, caring citizens and prepare students to assume a more compassionate and effective role in the larger community."

(more)

In her long-form, one-woman shows such as *Dividing Lines*, and her ongoing collaborative project *Tribes and Bridges*, O'Halloran takes on themes that encompass no less than the social history of her time and place. In her corporate diversity consulting and training and in the Chicagoland Just Stories Festival created in partnership with Angels Studio, a communications ministry of The Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word, O'Halloran provides an example of an artist "with the vision to harness the highest powers of compassion, empathy, and insight that the storytelling art form has to offer."

O'Halloran has contributed to the Racebridges Videos project ([www.racebridgesvideos.com](http://www.racebridgesvideos.com)) as both a contributor and co-producer/director with Angels Studio. On this site, over two dozen professional storytellers share excerpts from their programs dealing with our country's untold stories as well as their hopes for the future. The excerpts are free to teachers and the general public for viewing or download.

O'Halloran will receive her award at the National Storytelling Awards Ceremony on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at Casa Rio in San Antonio, Texas. For more information on O'Halloran, visit her web site [www.susanohalloran.com](http://www.susanohalloran.com).