FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LINCOLN – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. presented the 5th Annual GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search September 5th and 6th in the Open Air Auditorium at the State Fair Park in Lincoln. Since its beginning in 1991, the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search has grown to be the biggest talent search in Nebraska, featuring singers, dancers, instrumentalists, variety acts and songwriters. Forty-three contestants of all ages took the stage during the Semi-Finals on September 5th to compete for over $5,000.00 in cash, recording sessions and trophies.

Twenty-five contestants from the Semi-Finals advanced to the Finals on September 6th:
COMETS: Kayleah Moravec, Seward-Vocal; Andrea Hoffman, Chadron-Dance; "Twin Stars" Mariclaire & Merrilee Prill, Holdrege-Dance. SHOOTING STARS: Brekkan Rae Martinosky, Paxton-Vocal; Micah Urbanek, Kearney-Vocal; Adam Keller, Eustis-Vocal; Teresa Scanlan & Brittany Charles, Gering-Vocal; Lianna Prill, Holdrege-Vocal; Abbey Klein, Adams-Vocal; Amy Dunn, Falls City-Vocal; Haley Zimmerer, Verdigre-Vocal; Desire Valentine, Lincoln-Dance; Sabrina Blaser, Columbus-Vocal; Tori Osler, Elsie-Vocal; Kyle J. Evans, Hebron-Vocal; Torie Egger, Columbus-Vocal; Claire Wilkinson, Lincoln-Vocal; Sheila Moleczyk-Spalding-Vocal.
NOVAS: Don "Shuggy" Mittan, Beatrice-Vocal; Ronald R. Grimes, Central City-Vocal; Todd Kramer, Arthur-Vocal; Jared Daily, Papillion-Vocal; Sara Gellinger, Friend-Vocal; Keith Long, Oxford-Vocal; Risa Mann, Burwell-Vocal.

Nebraska State Fair Winners & Awards:
Cash prizes presented by the Nebraska State Fair & Vision Productions, Inc.; Recording Sessions presented by Ware House Productions and Trophies presented by Laser Art Design and Vision Productions, Inc.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS were given to individuals and businesses that have gone Above and Beyond to support and encourage Nebraska talent: Above and Beyond Awards: INTELLICOM, INC.-Kearney; Tom & Terri Ware, WARE HOUSE PRODUCTIONS-Omaha; Fran Wilson-Kearney; Josh Mackey, KOGA RADIO-Ogallala and Zach Lehman, RAMADA INN-Lincoln. A “Dream, Believe, and Achieve” True Inspiration Award – Dare to “DREAM” big, “BELIEVE” in your God given talents and strive to “ACHIEVE” your highest goals and aspirations - was presented for exemplifying the vision of the Galaxy of Stars®: “Dream, Believe and Achieve” Award: Robert DeBusk, Nebraska NSAI Chair-Eagle.
MEGA STAR: Highest Scoring Contestant Overall - $500.00 Cash & Trophy:  
Don "Shuggy" Mittan, Nova, Vocal, Beatrice

SHINING STAR: Highest Scoring Contestant in Star Quality, “The Shine Factor” - $100.00 & Trophy:  
Haley Zimmerer, Shooting Star, Vocal, Verdigre

SUPERSTAR: Voted Overall Best Performance by All Contestants - $100.00 & Trophy:  
Adam Keller, Shooting Star, Vocal, Eustis

COMETS (12 & Under)  
First Place: Trophy, $200.00 Cash: "Twin Stars" Mariclaire & Merrilee Prill, Dance, Holdrege  
Second Place: Trophy, $100.00 Cash: Kayleah Moravec, Vocal, Seward  
Third Place: Trophy, $ 50.00 Cash: Andrea Hoffman, Dance, Chadron

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18)  
First Place: Trophy, $200.00 Cash: Sabrina Blaser, Vocal, Columbus  
Second Place: Trophy, $100.00 Cash: Haley Zimmerer, Vocal, Verdigre  
Third Place: Trophy, $ 50.00 Cash: Kyle J. Evans, Vocal, Hebron

NOVAS (19 & Over)  
First Place: Trophy, $200.00 Cash: Don "Shuggy" Mittan, Vocal, Beatrice  
Second Place: Trophy, $100.00 Cash: Risa Mann, Vocal,Burwell  
Third Place: Trophy, $ 50.00 Cash: Jared Daily, Vocal, Papillion

HIGHEST SCORING VOCALISTS: 2 Hours/$300.00 Value Recording Session Award  
COMET (12 & Under): Kayleah Moravec, Seward  
SHOOTING STAR (13 to 18): Sabrina Blaser, Columbus  
NOVA (19 & Over): Don "Shuggy" Mittan, Beatrice  
OVERALL VOCAL (Out of 3 Age Divisions): Don "Shuggy" Mittan, Nova, Beatrice

Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest: The Top Five Songwriters of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest showcased their winning songs during the Finals Competition and were presented their awards at the Finals Awards Ceremony. All Top Fifteen songwriters were acknowledged on stage during the Awards Ceremony.

First Place: $200.00 Cash, 2 Hour/$300 Value Recording Session & Trophy; Second Place: $100.00 Cash, 1 Hour/$150.00 Value Recording Session & Trophy and Third Place: $50.00 Cash & Trophy.

Fourth & Fifth Place: Honorable Mention & Galaxy of Stars® Metal

1st Matthew Chandler-Smith, Grant “Passing Through”  
2nd Rae Welch, David City “Pale Blue Cotton”  
3rd Don “Shuggy” Mittan, Beatrice “I’m A Soldier”  
4th Royce Swain, Omaha “Up To Now”  
5th Rob Barnhardt, Lincoln “Broken Heart Condition”

For additional information go to the official Galaxy of Stars® website at  www.galaxyofstars.us and visit the Nebraska State Fair at  www.statefair.org.