



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Humanities Council seeks teachers for Capitol Forum

Applications must be in by May 15 for Nebraska high school social studies teachers who want to participate in the ninth Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future.

Twenty-five teachers statewide will be selected to participate in the program, which is designed to engage students in a discussion of our nation's future in a changing international environment. Hundreds of participating high school students learn the complexity of world politics and their role as active, informed citizens in the political process. Among the timely issues likely to be discussed are immigration, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, trade and the global economy, and environmental concerns.

A one-day workshop in early August will introduce teachers to the forum curriculum and philosophy. A planning day in February will feature public policy topics. Both workshops will include guest speakers. Past speakers have included Secretary of State John Gale and Major General Richard Newton of U.S. Strategic Command.

Each teacher will select up to five students to participate in the forum at the State Capitol on March 26. During the forum, student representatives will report and deliberate over the international concerns of their classmates. The day culminates in a dialogue among students and elected officials. During the recent 2006 forum, more than 95 students from throughout Nebraska gathered to discuss international issues among themselves and with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and state policymakers.

Following the daylong forum, teachers and students will lead their classmates through a two-day lesson plan to complete a Nebraska Student Ballot on America's Future. Ballot results are distributed to participating Nebraska high schools, news media, and state and federal elected officials.

Teachers who participate in Capitol Forum will receive free curriculum units and other materials to engage their classes in discussing global issues. Funding is available for travel stipends and classroom substitutes.

The Nebraska Humanities Council presents Capitol Forum in collaboration with the office of Secretary of State John Gale and the Choices for the 21st Century Project, an outreach of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. The 2006 Capitol Forum was funded in part by the Cooper Foundation and the "We the People" initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Capitol Forum conforms to Nebraska social studies standards. To receive information on the alignment of this program with state standards, or to apply to the program, write to: Nebraska Humanities Council, 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 500, Lincoln, NE 68508. A printable application form is available on the Capitol Forum page of the NHC website at www.nebraskahumanities.org. For more information, call Erika Hamilton at (402) 474-2131 ext. 104, fax (402) 474-4852, or e-mail erika@nebraskahumanities.org.

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