



## 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 are due by May 16 for Nebraska high school teachers who want to participate in the 14th annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future.

Twenty-five teachers statewide will be selected to participate in the Capitol Forum program presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council in collaboration with the office of Secretary of State John Gale and the Choices for the 21st Century Program, an outreach of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies.

Capitol Forum is designed to engage high school students in a discussion of our nation's future in a changing international environment. Each year about 1,500 students from participating schools in Nebraska learn the complexity of world politics and their role as active, informed citizens in the political process. Among the timely issues to be discussed are immigration, nuclear weapon proliferation, terrorism, environmental concerns, trade and the global economy.

Two one-day workshops in August and February help teachers integrate forum curriculum into their classrooms and prepare for the Capitol Forum Day. Each workshop features a distinguished guest speaker on a global issue relevant to the program.

Each teacher will select up to four students to participate in the forum on March 26 at the State Capitol. During the forum, student representatives will report and deliberate over the international concerns of their classmates. The day culminates in a dialogue among the students and members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation. At the 2011 forum, more than 100 students from across Nebraska gathered to discuss global issues among themselves and with U.S. Reps. Jeff Fortenberry, Lee Terry and Adrian Smith.

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

Teachers receive free curriculum units and materials to engage students in study and discussion. Capitol Forum conforms to Nebraska social studies and reading/writing standards. Funding is available for travel stipends and classroom substitutes.

The 2011 Capitol Forum was funded in part by the Dillon Foundation, Tom and Rhonda Peed, A to Z Printing, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the "We the People" Initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a state appropriation by the Nebraska Legislature.

For more information about Capitol Forum contact Kristi Hayek at (402) 474-2131, fax (402) 474-4852, or email [kristi@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:kristi@nebraskahumanities.org). A printable brochure and application form are available on the Capitol Forum page at [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org).