



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852
E-mail: nhc@nebraskahumanities.org
Website: www.nebraskahumanities.org

N E W S R E L E A S E

For release: March 18, 2011

Contact: Kristi Hayek, (402) 474-2131, ext. 108

Lawmakers to participate in March 28 Capitol Forum

Members of Nebraska's congressional delegation plan to participate in the 13th annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future on March 28 at the State Capitol.

They will meet with a group of more than 100 high school students to answer foreign policy questions as part of a daylong forum in which the students discuss the U.S. role in today's world.

The forum is a collaboration of the Nebraska Humanities Council and Secretary of State John Gale. The students and their teachers will represent 27 high schools in Lincoln, Omaha, Ashland, Atkinson, Auburn, Bellevue, Cairo, Chadron, Crawford, Dodge, Falls City, Grand Island, Hampton, Hartington, Hastings, Hemingford, Holdrege, Howells, Norfolk, North Platte, Rising City, Springfield, Sterling and Wilcox.

Capitol Forum is a civic education initiative designed to give high school students a voice in public policy. For six months, students have studied and deliberated foreign policy issues in the classroom. On March 28, student representatives from each school will engage in discussion among themselves and with policymakers on such issues as immigration, nuclear weapon proliferation, terrorism, international trade, and the global environment. They will deliberate on four distinct options for the future of U.S. foreign policy, culminating in a conversation with members of Nebraska's congressional delegation.

The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with a welcome by Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy in the Warner Chamber. Deliberation on the four futures begins at 1:25 p.m. The students' conversation with the congressional delegation is scheduled for 2:45 p.m.

After the March 28 forum, teachers and students will return home to share their experiences with classmates, broadening the impact of Capitol Forum to more than 1,500 students statewide. These classes will complete a ballot describing their view of America's future role in the world. Results of the ballot will be compiled and distributed to elected officials, Nebraska schools and news media.

Capitol Forum is a Choices for the 21st Century project, an outreach educational program of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. In Nebraska, Capitol Forum is funded in part by the Dillon Foundation, Tom and Rhonda Peed, A to Z Printing, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, "We the People" initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a state appropriation by the Nebraska Legislature.

###

Editors: A complete list of participating schools follows. For an interview with Secretary of State John Gale, call (402) 471-1572. News media are welcome to attend all sessions of Capitol Forum. For details on the agenda, call Kristi Hayek, NHC program officer, at (402) 474-2131, ext. 108.

Schools and teachers planning to attend the 13th Capitol Forum are:

- Ashland-Greenwood High School (Brian Petermann)
- West Holt High School, Atkinson (Chris Nemetz)
- Auburn High School (Bryce Roth)
- Bellevue West High School (Mike McLaughlin)
- Centura High School, Cairo (George Lytle)
- Chadron High School (Joe McCarty)
- Crawford High School (Mary Gould-Traphagan)
- Dodge Public Schools (Mitch Hoffer)
- Falls City High School (Lori Rech)
- Grand Island Senior High School (Tamara Bailey)
- Hampton High School (Patrick Alexander)
- Cedar Catholic High School, Hartington (Audrey Freeman)
- Hastings High School (Robert Kerr)
- Hemingford High School (Dave Chatelain)
- Holdrege High School (Chad Bailey)
- Howells High School (Scott Polacek)
- Lincoln North Star High School (Jace Ahlberg)
- Pius X High School, Lincoln (Tom Seib)
- Millard West High School (Ali Bragg)
- Norfolk Senior High School (Katherine Steinkamp)
- North Platte High School (N. Dennis Fornander)
- Creighton Prep High School, Omaha (Kim Meyer)
- Duchesne Academy, Omaha (Heidi Reinhart)
- Rising City High School (Nonie Hrabik)
- Platteview High School, Springfield (Jon Comine)
- Sterling High School (Arlo Wusk)
- Wilcox-Hildreth High School (Ken Meyers)