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# ***N E W S   R E L E A S E***

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## **Teachers chosen statewide for ninth Capitol Forum**

LINCOLN—The Nebraska Humanities Council has selected 25 Nebraska high school teachers from a record number of applicants to participate in the ninth annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future. Capitol Forum is designed to engage high school social studies students and teachers in a discussion of our nation's future in a changing international environment. The program emphasizes the education of students in their role as citizens.

Schools and teachers chosen for the 2007 Capitol Forum are: Boone Central High School in Albion (Dan Zoucha), Ashland-Greenwood High School (Brian Petermann), Bellevue West High School (Zach Bayse), Cambridge Public Schools (George Lytle), Chadron High School (Keith Walton), Crofton High School (William Schroeder), Medicine Valley High in Curtis (Barry Mraz), Holdrege High School (Chad Bailey), Howells High School (Scott Polacek), Lincoln North Star High School (Brian Burback), Lynch High School (Jeff Hart), Madison Senior High School (Julie Engelmann), North Platte High School (N. Dennis Fornander), Omaha Benson High School (Tom Curran and Scott Marcum), Omaha South High School (Sonya Stejskal), Plainview High School (Roland Johnson), Platteview High School in Springfield (Jon Comine), Stanton High School (Patric Brechbill), Sterling High School (Arlo Wusk), Sumner-Eddyville-Miller High School (Dee Thompson), Superior High School (Dave Barnard), Centennial Public Schools in Utica (Trent Goldsmith), Valentine High School (Roy Ferris), and Wilcox-Hildreth Public School (Ken Meyers).

Robin Kratina of Bellevue West High School will participate as lead teacher with help from Gene Dorn, who retired from Bellevue West in May. Dorn is the only teacher to have participated in Nebraska's Capitol Forum since its inception.

Capitol Forum is designed to engage high school social studies students and teachers in a discussion of our nation's future in a changing international environment. The program emphasizes the education of students in their role as citizens. Issues to be discussed in class and during the forum include terrorism, nuclear proliferation, immigration trends, trade and the global economy, and environmental concerns.

On Aug. 7, the teachers will gather at Durham Western Heritage Museum in Omaha for a one-day workshop that will introduce them to the forum curriculum, new teaching strategies, and results from the 2006 Capitol Forum student ballots. The workshop will include a guest speaker representing Sen. Chuck Hagel's office. The speaker will address immigration issues. Mick Hale, Durham's director of education, will introduce the teachers to the museum's exhibit about Omaha's immigration trends.

In February, teachers will meet in Lincoln for a planning day that will feature another international policy topic and guest speaker. On March 26, teachers will bring student representatives to the State Capitol to report on and deliberate over the international concerns of their classmates, and to discuss these concerns with elected officials.

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

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