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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Teachers statewide chosen for 10th Capitol Forum

LINCOLN—The Nebraska Humanities Council has selected 28 high school teachers to participate in the 10th annual **Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future**. Eleven teachers and eight schools are new to the program.

Schools and teachers chosen for the 2008 Capitol Forum are: Ashland-Greenwood High School (Brian Petermann), Cambridge High School (George Lytle), Chadron High School (Keith Walton), Medicine Valley High School in Curtis (Barry Mraz), Dodge High School (Patty Novicki), Norris High School in Firth (Scott Harrington), Twin River High School in Genoa (Ryan Sidwell), Hampton High School (Patrick Alexander), 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 (Mike Gillotti), Pius X High School in Lincoln (Tom Seib), Lynch High School (Jeff Hart), Omaha Benson High School (Susan Jensen), Omaha Bryan High School (James Rowe), Mercy High School in Omaha (Kim Meyer), Westside High School in Omaha (Mike Honeyman), Platteview High School in Springfield (Jon Comine), Southeast Consolidated School in Stella (Peggy Williams), Sterling High School (Arlo Wusk), Sumner-Eddyville-Miller High School (Dee Thompson), Centennial High School in Utica (Trent Goldsmith), Weeping Water High School (Michael Barrett), and Wilcox-Hildreth High School (Ken Meyers).

Robin Kratina of Bellevue West High School and N. Dennis Fornander of North Platte High School will participate as lead teachers. Together, they have nine years of combined Capitol Forum experience.

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. It seeks to develop a foundation for long-term civic engagement by giving students a voice in public consideration of current issues. Students study and discuss various positions on global concerns—even, on occasion, advocating positions opposed to their own—to better understand options and their consequences. Issues include terrorism, nuclear weapon proliferation, immigration trends, trade and the global economy, and environmental concerns.

On Aug. 6, the teachers will gather at Bellevue West for a workshop to discuss forum curriculum, teaching strategies, and results from the 2007 Capitol Forum student ballots. The workshop will include a field trip to UNMC's BioSecurity Preparedness lab and guest speakers who will address the potential impact of bioterrorism on Nebraska's population, agriculture and water, and the how the state would respond.

In February, teachers will meet in Lincoln for a planning day that will feature a guest speaker on environmental concerns with a special focus on water. On March 31, teachers will bring student representatives to the State Capitol to report on and deliberate over the international concerns of their classmates, and to discuss issues with elected officials.

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 2008 Capitol Forum is funded in part by the Cooper Foundation and the "We the People" initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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