

The Fourteenth Annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future

Capitol Forum is sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council in collaboration with Secretary of State John Gale.

The Nebraska Humanities Council funds programs that explore our state heritage, build community awareness, and strengthen our ties to cultural traditions at home and abroad. These programs enrich our citizens with knowledge and values needed to become enlightened citizens of the 21st century.

About Capitol Forum

Capitol Forum is a multi-state initiative of the Choices for the 21st Century Education Program at Brown University. Choices seeks to engage the American public—student and adult—in consideration of international issues and to strengthen the quality of civic life in the United States.

The Choices approach to classroom learning places special emphasis on the importance of educating students in their participatory role as citizens. Choices public programs engage general audiences in deliberation of our changing international role and the implications for domestic policy.

For information on
Capitol Forum, visit:

<http://www.choices.edu/cf>
or
www.nebraskahumanities.org



Capitol Forum on America's Future

This program is designed to engage high school social studies students and their teachers in discussion of our nation's future in a changing international environment. Classroom resources and exercises will be provided to participating teachers to engage whole classes in consideration of global issues. **Teachers will select up to four students from their classes to participate in the March Capitol Forum.**

Choices Workshop: August 1, 2011

This one-day workshop introduces teachers to the Choices approach on which the Forum is based. A special presentation or guest speaker will address a pertinent global issue.

Forum Planning Day: February 6, 2012

Teachers meet in Lincoln to review class preparations, the Forum agenda, and to make final plans. A special presentation will address a pertinent global issue.

Classroom Preparation

In class, students learn about and discuss critical issues in U.S. foreign policy.

CAPITOL FORUM: March 26, 2012

Student representatives meet at the State Capitol in Lincoln to report on the international concerns of their classmates and to engage in a deeper exploration of alternative policy directions. The day culminates in a dialogue among students, elected officials and policymakers.

Classroom Deliberation and Balloting

Following the Forum at the State Capitol, teachers and student representatives lead classmates in a two-day lesson plan fostering consideration of the issues and completion of the *Student Ballot on America's Future*.

Sharing of Ballot Results

A report of the ballot results will be mailed to high schools, news media, and state and federal elected officials.

Teachers and schools will receive:

- ☆ Two free Choices curriculum units and classroom materials related to Capitol Forum
- ☆ Report of the *Student Ballot on America's Future*
- ☆ Certificates of Participation for student representatives
- ☆ Travel stipends and funding for classroom substitutes

Comments from elected officials

"I always enjoy visiting with students at Nebraska's Capitol Forum. Their interest in America and our role in the international community gives me great confidence that our young people are being well prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow."

U.S. Senator Ben Nelson

"Capitol Forum is a great opportunity for our young people. It is always exciting to see and talk with students interested in government and public service, and I look forward to meeting with the participants."

Governor Dave Heineman

Capitol Forum helps meet Nebraska and federal educational standards. A document outlining the alignment of this program with state standards is available at www.nebraskahumanities.org.

To Apply:

Twenty-five teachers will be selected to participate in the Nebraska Capitol Forum program.

Application deadline is May 16, 2011.

Name _____

School _____

Subject(s) Taught _____

Send Mail to (check one) School _____ Home _____

School Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

School Phone _____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Do you check this e-mail address over the summer? Yes _____ No _____

Address applications and questions to:

Nebraska Humanities Council
215 Centennial Mall South
Suite 330
Lincoln, NE 68508

FAX: (402) 474-4852

TEL: (402) 474-2131 ext.108

E-mail: kristi@nebraskahumanities.org



Nebraska
Humanities
Council

March 2011

Dear Nebraska Teacher,

Capitol Forum provides an opportunity for Nebraska youth to discuss and study important global issues. Foreign policy questions, such as conflict in the Middle East, immigration trends, the role of trade in a struggling economy, and nuclear nonproliferation, are as timely as the lead story in the nightly news. The situations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran and elsewhere have made world problems and national security alarmingly real issues. Capitol Forum is now more relevant than ever for our youth as global issues are brought to American shores.

In a poll conducted by the National Association of Secretaries of State, 67 percent of American young people agreed that "our generation has an important voice but no one seems to hear it." We believe it is a misconception that our elected officials are not interested in the voices of America's youth, but it is something we need to address. Capitol Forum gives students the opportunity to converse with our federal and state elected officials and to have each side listen to concerns about public policy. Capitol Forum has demonstrated that Nebraska is listening.

What better way to convince our youth that they CAN make a difference and that their voice is heard than by participating in Capitol Forum? Our hope is that they will leave the Forum energized to make a difference and convinced that their opinions count.

Thomas Jefferson challenged America's leaders to pass on the torch of freedom to each new generation by preparing them to participate as educated citizens. Programs such as Capitol Forum equip and inspire our next generation of citizen-leaders to understand the complex world in which we live.

Sincerely,



John Gale
Secretary of State



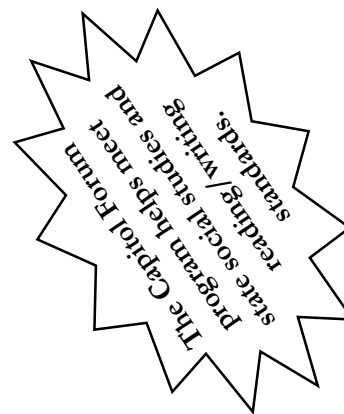
Christopher Sommerich
Executive Director
Nebraska Humanities Council

Nonprofit Org.
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Humanities
Council

Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future
Nebraska Humanities Council
215 Centennial Mall South Suite 330
Lincoln, NE 68508



— 2011-2012 —
The Fourteenth Annual Nebraska

Capitol Forum on America's Future



Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale visits with students from across the state at Capitol Forum on America's Future.

**A Program for High School Students
and Their Teachers Presented by:**

**Nebraska Humanities Council
and Secretary of State John Gale**

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