

# NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 500  
Lincoln, NE 68508-1887  
Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852  
E-mail: [nhc@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:nhc@nebraskahumanities.org)  
Website: [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org)

## **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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**Contact: Raymond Screws, (402) 474-2131, ext. 103**

### **U.S. lawmakers to participate in Capitol Forum**

LINCOLN—Several members of Nebraska's congressional delegation have confirmed plans to participate in the sixth annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future on March 29 at the State Capitol.

U.S. Congressman Lee Terry will attend the conference on international issues in Lincoln, while U.S. Senators Ben Nelson and Chuck Hagel are expected to participate by videoconference, Nelson from Omaha and Hagel from Washington, D.C. Congressmen Doug Bereuter and Tom Osborne are unable to participate this year.

About 99 students from high schools in Lincoln, Omaha, Bellevue, North Platte, Hastings, Fremont, Chadron, Crawford, Holdrege, Valentine, Wausa, Wilcox, Pawnee City and Sumner will gather at the daylong forum, a collaboration of the Nebraska Humanities Council and the office of Secretary of State John Gale. Twenty-one high school teachers are involved.

Student representatives from each school will engage in discussion among themselves and with policymakers and other elected officials on such foreign policy issues as immigration, conflict resolution, the environment and trade. They will debate four distinct options for the future of U.S. foreign policy, culminating in a conversation with Nebraska state senators and with members of Nebraska's congressional delegation.

The debate begins in the Warner Chamber at 1:40 p.m. The conversation with elected officials and policymakers is scheduled for 2:45 p.m. A discussion of the U.S. role in the world, beginning at 3:30 p.m., will be taped by Nebraska Educational Television.

After the March 29 forum, teachers and students will return home to share their experiences with classmates, broadening the impact of Capitol Forum to hundreds of 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 by Brown University to elected officials, Nebraska schools and news media.

Capitol Forum is a Choices for the 21st Century Project, an outreach program of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies.

In Nebraska, Capitol Forum is funded in part by Milton G. Waldbaum Family Foundation of Omaha, State Farm Insurance and the Abel Foundation of Lincoln.

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***Editors: For an interview with Secretary of State John Gale, call Shelley Harrold at (402) 471-1572. News media are welcome to attend all sessions of Capitol Forum. For details on the day's***

*agenda, call Raymond Screws, NHC senior program officer, at (402) 474-2131, ext. 103.*