

STATE OF NEBRASKA
John A. Gale
Secretary of State

P.O. Box 94608
State Capitol, Suite 2300
Lincoln, NE 68509-4608
Phone: 402-471-2554
Fax: 402-471-3237
www.sos.state.ne.us

NEWS RELEASE
Nov. 18, 2004

CONTACT: Amy Bracht
402-471-8675, abracht@nol.org

Gale touts benefits of international education programs

LINCOLN – In recognition of International Education Week, Nov. 15-19, Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale asks all Nebraskans to reach out to foreign students studying in Nebraska and thank them for being here and for their contributions to the “good life” of Nebraska.

“Having international students living and studying with our Nebraska students enriches all of our lives,” said Gale, who serves as chief protocol officer for the state. “With the world rapidly shrinking in this age of information technology, these relationships will most likely create lifetime friendships and even business and political ties.”

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and Department of Education, International Education Week provides an opportunity to highlight the benefits of international education and exchange, express appreciation for foreign students and scholars who study and teach in the United States, and commend people who organize and participate in exchange programs.

Gale said that there are some 3,800 foreign students from all over the world studying at Nebraska colleges and universities.

He noted that several international programs in the state have received national recognition, including the Center for Afghanistan Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the Japanese Agricultural Training Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the James Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Recently, UNL was contracted by the Department of State to provide the orientation program for a group of foreign students who will be studying in the United States under the distinguished Fulbright Scholarship Program. “It was a great honor for UNL to be chosen, and we hope that it will lead to an ongoing relationship for UNL with the Department of State,” Gale said.

In cooperation with the Office for International Visitors of the Department of State and the Lincoln Mayor's Committee for International Friendship, Gale's office receives visits from some 250 foreign guests and dignitaries each year.

“Under this program, many thousands of business and political leaders around the world have gotten to know Nebraskans and Nebraska, and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the people and their lifestyles in the heartland of the Great Plains,” Gale said.

Commenting on International Education Week, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said, “The more we learn about and understand each other, the more effective we will be in creating a world of global citizens, and the better our chances of achieving peace in our increasingly interdependent world.”

#