



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 500  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
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**

For release: March 18, 2005

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 seventh annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future on March 28 at the State Capitol.

U.S. Reps. Tom Osborne and Lee Terry will attend the day's events in person. U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel will be out of the country, but to show his support for Capitol Forum he will prepare a videotaped statement.

About 85 students from high schools in Lincoln, Omaha, Bellevue, Millard, North Platte, Hastings, Holdrege, Valentine, Wausa, Wilcox, Pawnee City, Sumner, Potter, Sterling, Plainview, Ashland, Papillion and Firth will gather at the daylong forum, a collaboration of the Nebraska Humanities Council and Secretary of State John Gale. Twenty 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 members of Nebraska's congressional delegation and state officials.

The debate begins in the Warner Chamber at 1:40 p.m. The conversation with elected officials and policymakers is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. for Rep. Osborne and State Treasurer Ron Ross and 2:45 p.m. for Rep. Terry and Lt. Gov. Rich Sheehy. NET Television will tape a 3:30 p.m. discussion of the U.S. role in the world.

After the March 28 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 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 the "We the People" initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities and by Commercial Federal Bank.

#

***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.***