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Secretary Gale forms college voting advisory committee

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale hopes to expand the civic engagement of Nebraska college students.

Gale has formed the College Student Advisory Committee to involve and educate students regarding voting issues in a nonpartisan manner. The committee includes representatives from three University of Nebraska campuses.

Gale got the idea for the committee after seeing college students become actively involved in trying to get voting legislation passed by the 2008 Legislature.

"I came to the realization that my office and college students could collaborate on a whole range of voting issues," he said. "The committee gives students a voice in our democracy, and a voice that is being heard."

"We expect many good ideas to emerge and are excited to have their input. We hope many students will volunteer to be poll workers."

Students on the advisory committee are Adam Morfeld and Amanda Crook, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Margaret Mandy and Bethany Ragan, University of Nebraska at Omaha; and Tim Hruza, University of Nebraska at Kearney. Another UNK student will be named to the committee.

Gale said there are a number of election issues that impact college students: some are new voters and are uncertain about the process, some don't know where to turn to for information, and some are from out of town and need to reregister to vote or learn to vote absentee.

Gale said the committee is considering a number of civic engagement initiatives in connection with the Nov. 4 general election.

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