

JOHN A. GALE

Nebraska Secretary of State

(402) 471-2554

www.sos.ne.gov

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Contact: Gary Seacrest

(402) 471-8408, gary.seacrest@nebraska.gov

Symposium to focus on civic involvement of college students

LINCOLN – An Oct. 8 symposium in Lincoln will focus on promoting civic involvement by Nebraska college students, including getting more of them to the polls for the November general election.

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Symposium is a nonpartisan event sponsored by Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale and his College Student Advisory Committee.

“We want to encourage the students to be active citizens at all levels,” Gale said. “This includes voting, performing community service, becoming community leaders and holding public office.”

The symposium will be attended by students at the Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney campuses of the University of Nebraska as well as Nebraska Wesleyan University and Peru State College. The College Student Advisory Committee consists of representatives from the five schools.

The symposium will serve as a kickoff for activities to promote voter registration and voter turnout at the five schools.

While the symposium is by invitation only, students interested in attending the event should contact the Secretary of State’s Office at (402) 471-4070. Each campus has an invitation quota.

The symposium begins with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Nebraska Club. NU President J.B. Milliken will deliver the keynote address at the luncheon.

The symposium will reconvene at 1:30 p.m. in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol. The afternoon will be highlighted by speakers including Gale, Chief Justice Mike Heavican of the Nebraska Supreme Court, state Auditor Mike Foley and Clerk of the Legislature Patrick O’Donnell. The symposium also will feature a panel of state senators including Colby Coash, Brenda Council, Tony Fulton and Amanda McGill.

“In the past, students have complained that they don’t have a voice or that their voices aren’t heard,” Gale said. “But we hope with student-to-student encouragement that their voices will be heard through their voting.”

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