



From the Office of Secretary of State

John Gale

402-471-2554

www.sos.ne.gov

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Contact: Laura Strimple

402-471-8408

laura.strimple@nebraska.gov

Attached you will find the list of participating schools and teachers for year's Capitol Forum.

Nebraska students to tackle foreign policy issues at State Capitol

LINCOLN – In less than a week, more than 80 Nebraska high school students will travel to the State Capitol for the 15th Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future.

Sponsored by Humanities Nebraska and Secretary of State John Gale, Capitol Forum is designed to engage high school students in a discussion about our nation's future in a changing international environment. This year, 21 teachers and their students are taking part.

The day will begin at 8:20 a.m. with a greeting from Governor Dave Heinemann and from Secretary Gale. During the morning, students will meet in break-out sessions in which they will discuss U.S. foreign policy topics including: terrorism, immigration, global environment, trade and nuclear proliferation. That afternoon, students will move to the Warner Chamber, where they will present and deliberate options related to the future of U.S. foreign policy.

"Capitol Forum has been an incredibly successful program that has reached over 20,000 Nebraska high school students. The students study, debate, and absorb the breadth of American foreign policy. With the globalized world we live in, that is extremely important for this generation," said Gale.

As part of the program students also create posters, which will be on display in the Rotunda, depicting their various viewpoints. The day will culminate in a question-

and-answer period in the Warner Chamber involving U.S Senator Mike Johanns and U.S. Representatives Jeff Fortenberry and Lee Terry.

“A strong democracy requires informed, engaged citizens,” explained Chris Sommerich, executive director of Humanities Nebraska. “Capitol Forum is helping high school students understand different perspectives and share their own voices on issues that matter to Nebraska.”

Upon completion of the one-day event, teachers and their students return home and share their experiences with their classmates, broadening the impact of Capitol Forum to more than 1,500 students statewide. Those classes will complete a ballot describing their view of America’s future role in the world. The results 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 educational program of Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies. In Nebraska, the program is funded in part by the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Nebraska.

For additional information, visit the Capitol Forum page at <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/>.

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