



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Humanities Council seeks teachers for Capitol Forum

Applications must be in by May 15 for Nebraska high school teachers who want to participate in the 12th annual Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future.

Twenty-five teachers statewide will be selected to participate in the program.

Capitol Forum is designed to engage high school students in a discussion of our nation's future in a changing international environment. Each year, nearly 1,400 students from participating schools learn the complexity of world politics and their role as active, informed citizens in the political process. Among the timely issues to be discussed are immigration, nuclear weapon proliferation, terrorism, environmental concerns, and trade and the global economy.

Two one-day workshops in August and February help teachers integrate forum curriculum into their classrooms and prepare for Capitol Forum Day. Each features a distinguished guest speaker on a global issue relevant to the program.

Each teacher will select up to four students to participate in the forum March 29 at the State Capitol. During the forum, student representatives will report and deliberate over the international concerns of their classmates. The day culminates in a dialogue among the students and elected officials. During the recent 2009 forum, 89 students from throughout Nebraska gathered to discuss global issues among themselves and with U.S. Sens. Ben Nelson and Mike Johanns and U.S. Reps. Jeff Fortenberry, Lee Terry and Adrian Smith.

After the day-long forum, teachers and students lead their classmates through a two-day lesson plan to complete a Nebraska Student Ballot on America's Future. Ballot results are distributed to participating Nebraska high schools, news media, and state and federal elected officials.

Participating teachers receive free curriculum units and other materials to engage their students in study and discussion. Funding is available for travel stipends and classroom substitutes.

The Nebraska Humanities Council presents Capitol Forum in collaboration with the office of Secretary of State John Gale and the Choices for the 21st Century Project, an outreach of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies.

The 2009 Capitol Forum was funded in part by the Cooper Foundation, A to Z Printing, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and a state appropriation by the Nebraska Legislature.

Capitol Forum conforms to Nebraska social studies and reading/writing standards. To receive information on the alignment with state standards, or to apply to the program, write to: Nebraska Humanities Council, 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330, Lincoln, NE 68508.

A printable application form is available on the Capitol Forum page of the NHC website at www.nebraskahumanities.org. For more details, contact Erika Hamilton at (402) 474-2131, fax (402) 474-4852, or e-mail erika@nebraskahumanities.org.

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