



From the Office of Secretary of State

John Gale

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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 – More than 80 Nebraska students will debate and determine the role that the United States should play when interacting with other nations. The 16th Nebraska Capitol Forum on America's Future will be hosted at the State Capitol on Monday, March 24.

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 from across the state and their students are taking part in the day-long event.

In the morning, students will be greeted by Governor Dave Heineman and Secretary of State John Gale in the Warner Chamber. Afterward they will take part in break-out sessions in which they discuss U.S. foreign policy topics like: terrorism, immigration, global environment, trade and nuclear proliferation. Students return to the Warner Chamber in the afternoon to present and discuss what are known as the "Four Futures." Those represent the four starkly different directions for U.S. policy.

"One of my favorite elements of Capitol Forum is how the students learn to examine global issues from different perspectives before making up their own minds about a course of action," said Chris Sommerich, executive director of Humanities Nebraska. "U.S. foreign policy is a tricky business, and our future leaders will be operating in an increasingly complex world."

Last year, high school students in Nebraska determined that the best foreign policy was one that protected the homeland by limiting international involvement and instead, involved concentrating on issues closer to home.

"This program has reached over 20,000 Nebraska high school students during the Capitol Forum program in Nebraska and has heightened the awareness and knowledge of international affairs of those students, making them better prepared for the increasing globalization of world affairs during their careers", said Secretary Gale.

Also as part of their day, students will have a chance to share lunch with state senators and their aids as well as ask questions of members of Nebraska's congressional delegation through a video linkup from Washington, D.C.

After their day at the Capitol, teachers and students return to their schools and share their experiences with their classmates, broadening the impact of Capitol Forum to more than 1,500 students statewide. They take part in a survey and the results are compiled and distributed to elected officials, Nebraska schools and the 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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Participating Schools & Teachers

North Platte High School, North Platte, N. Dennis Fornander

Duchesne Academy, Omaha, Heidi Reinhart

Lincoln North Star, Lincoln, Jace Ahlberg

Hampton High School, Hampton, Patrick Alexander

Holdrege High School, Holdrege, Chad Bailey

Louisville High School, Louisville, Nicholas Bausch

Stanton High School, Stanton, Jacob Blum

Hemingford High School, Hemingford, Dave Chatelain

Platteview High School, Platteview, Jon Comine

Bellevue West High School, Bellevue, Brenna Dacey

Waverly Public High School, Waverly, Trent Goldsmith

Nebraska Lutheran High, Waco, Cori Humann

Hastings High School, Hastings, Robert Kerr

Wilcox-Hildreth High School, Wilcox, Ken Meyers

West Holt High School, Atkinson, Chris Nemetz

Ashland-Greenwood High School, Ashland, Brian Petermann

Howells-Dodge High School, Howells, Scott Polacek

Falls City High School, Falls City, Lori Rech

Auburn High School, Auburn, Bryce Roth

Norfolk Senior High, Norfolk, Katherine Steinkamp

Sterling High School, Sterling, Arlo Wusk