

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOES YOUR SCHOOL REFLECT PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION?

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, HIGH-SCHOOLERS DECIDE

The Exchange at the National Constitution Center Features Respectful Deliberation on Hot Button Issues

Philadelphia, PA (August 26, 2010) – Students from schools across the country will discuss the principles of the U.S. Constitution and whether or not they are reflected in their schools, during ***The Exchange*** at the National Constitution Center. The program will take place on Thursday, September 16, 2010, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST, as part of the Center’s week-long celebration of Constitution Day on September 17. *The Exchange* engages high school students in deliberation about current constitutional issues in a national videoconference format that promotes mutual respect.

Students will take part in the deliberation both at the Center and via videoconference. Participating schools include:

- Pine Crest School* Fort Lauderdale , FL
- Christopher Columbus High School* Miami Shores, FL
- Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School Philadelphia, PA
- South Valley Jr. High* Liberty, MO

* Denotes school participating via Internet2

Any school in the country can view a live broadcast of the event at www.constitutioncenter.org/exchange, where curricular material to support classroom discussion of the topic is also available.

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ADD ONE/EXCHANGE SEPTEMBER

Prior to *The Exchange*, participating schools will review an online curriculum poster developed by the education staff at the Center to encourage student examination and evaluation of constitutional principles from a variety of perspectives. The front side of the poster is designed to initiate the conversation with a Town Hall Wall, a format pioneered at the Center and used in its main exhibition, which presents the fundamentals of an issue and various options for its resolution. The opposite side of the poster, created for teachers, displays the curriculum, including lesson plans and student handouts.

The Exchange is made possible with generous support from the Annenberg Foundation and Scholastic Inc. Previous *Exchange* programs have focused on topics such as religious expression in schools, immigration, and the balance of school safety and student constitutional rights. During the most recent *Exchange* program, students discussed the issue of gun control. Videos on past *Exchanges* are available at www.constitutioncenter.org/exchange. For more information, please contact Kathryn Venzor at 215.409.6756 or kvenzor@constitutioncenter.org.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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