

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS NATIONAL TEACHER INSTITUTE

PHILADELPHIA, PA (November 29, 2006) – The National Constitution Center will host the first of a series of annual National Teacher Institutes this summer. Available to secondary school teachers from around the country, these free, week-long workshops will feature outstanding university faculty who will lead seminars about how to teach the Constitution and its history in classrooms along with the civic values that the Constitution itself promotes. As part of the *Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for Teachers* grant awarded to the National Constitution Center by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the first Institute will focus on the history and political significance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Following the pilot program, two National Teacher Institutes will be held at the Center each summer, with funding by a grant from the Annenberg Foundation.

The first Institute, titled “A Revolution in Government: Philadelphia, American Independence and the Constitution, 1765-1791”, features lectures by leading historians and scholars, open discussions with fellow participants and field trips and walking tours to some of Philadelphia’s most important historical sites. The workshop will be offered at two different times during the summer: July 10 through 14, 2006 and July 24 through 28, 2006.

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ADD ONE/NATIONAL TEACHER INSTITUTE

The program is open to public, private and home-school teachers. Teachers and administrators from all levels and disciplines may apply, but preference will be given to teachers who incorporate American history themes and civics in their classrooms.

Registration is free, but an application is required. To apply, visit

www.constitutioncenter.org to download an application form and learn more about the workshop. **All applications must be submitted by March 16, 2006.**

The faculty who will lead the workshop seminars and lectures are John Murrin of Princeton University; Michael Zuckerman and Dr. Richard Beeman from the University of Pennsylvania; and Dan Richter from the McNeil Center for Early American History.

No other city in America can boast a more impressive role in building the framework of American Government as we know it today than Philadelphia. The city offers the perfect environment for educators to enhance their own knowledge of the Constitution and Revolutionary era, which they can then incorporate into their own classrooms. During their week-long stay, educators will participate in workshops on a variety of topics, as well as sessions devoted to methods of teaching the Constitution and the development of lesson plans.

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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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".

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ADD TWO/NATIONAL TEACHER INSTITUTE

The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and is a partner of NPR's "Justice Talking," a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin's 300th birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.gophila.com/ben.

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