

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

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CONTACT:

Gina Romanelli
Education PR Coordinator
215.409.6696
gromanelli@constitutioncenter.org

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER OFFERS SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTES

Teachers from overseas scheduled to participate

Philadelphia, PA (July 1, 2008) – The National Constitution Center will offer five, week-long summer workshops for educators from across the country and overseas. Four workshops will take place at the Center and, for the first time, a workshop will take place off-site. The first off-site workshop will be at The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California. Each workshop will focus on a different method of teaching the Constitution in classrooms, along with the civic rights and responsibilities which the Constitution itself promotes. Teachers participate at no cost, thanks to funding from the Annenberg Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The first Institute, “Teaching the Presidential Election,” is part of the Annenberg Summer Teacher Institutes, and is funded by a grant from the Annenberg Foundation. This session gave teachers of grades 4 through 12 the opportunity to engage students in the presidential election. From June 26 through June 30, 2008, teachers studied every stop on the road to the White House and developed curriculum for the Center’s new *Headed to the White House* exhibition, which opens on Constitution Day, September 17, 2008. **Dr. John Kenneth White**, professor of Politics at Catholic University of America, served as the lead scholar for the workshop. Among hundreds of applicants, 30 teachers from across the country participated in this Institute.

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NATIONAL TEACHER INSTITUTES/ ADD ONE

On June 26, 2008, teachers who participated in the "Teaching the Presidential Election" workshop also had the chance to listen to veteran Washington reporter **Robert Schlesinger** discuss his new book, *White House Ghosts: Presidents and Their Speechwriters*, and talk about the crucial and often hidden role played by the men and women who help presidents find the words they hope will define their places in history. The program was moderated by Dr. White.

Also funded by a grant from the Annenberg Foundation, the "Changing the Constitution: Politics and Law in American Constitutional Development" workshop will give educators the opportunity to discuss the processes of constitutional change. For the first time, this workshop will be offered simultaneously at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia and at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Los Angeles, California from July 28 through August 1, 2008. Thirty teachers of grades 7 through 12 have been chosen to take part in each session.

Dr. Rogers M. Smith, the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor and Chair of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, and **Dr. Keith E. Whittington**, the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Politics at Princeton University, will serve as Academic Directors at the National Constitution Center's workshop. **Akhil Amar**, Professor of constitutional law at Yale College and Yale Law School, and **Douglas Kmiec**, Professor of Constitutional Law and the Caruso Family Chair in Constitutional Law at the Pepperdine University School of Law, will serve as Academic Directors at the Reagan Library's workshop.

Two more week-long workshops will allow K through 12 teachers to explore the American Revolution and the creation of the United States Constitution. A Revolution In Government: Philadelphia, American Independence and the Constitution, 1765 -1791" is a *Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop for Teachers*, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities." Two sessions of this workshop will be offered from July 7 through July 11, 2008, and from July 21 through July 25, 2008.

The participating faculty include **Dr. Rosalind Remer** from The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, **Dr. Michael Zuckerman** and **Dr. Richard Beeman** from the University of Pennsylvania, and **Dr. Daniel Richter** from the McNeil Center for Early American History.

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NATIONAL TEACHER INSTITUTES/ ADD LAST

Forty teachers have been chosen to take part in each session. The National Endowment for the Humanities and the State Department have made it possible for three international teachers to participate. Educators from Ecuador and from Cameroon are confirmed to participate.

In addition to taking part in lectures by leading historians, scholars and public figures, participating in open discussions with fellow teachers, and going on field trips and walking tours of Philadelphia's most important historic sites, National Summer Teacher Institute participants will have unlimited access to all that the National Constitution Center has to offer. They can see the award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising" and explore the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*.

After they have completed their workshop at the Center, educators will be able to share their thoughts and propose new ideas through distance learning technology, which is designed to update teachers on upcoming events and get feedback on their experience.

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. Also, 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 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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