

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER BRINGS THE CONSTITUTION TO MILLIONS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Philadelphia, PA – In addition to the hundreds of thousands of visitors who experience the National Constitution Center each year, millions more are reached through the Center’s **Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach**. With a \$10 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation, the Center makes the Constitution accessible to all – including those who cannot visit Philadelphia.

The Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach offers a variety of programs including debates, discussions, and workshops for students and adults on constitutional issues; a study center that develops and distributes teaching tools such as lesson plans; and a Visiting Scholars program, which makes the research and insight of leading academics accessible to a broader audience. Some programs are available through radio and television broadcasts as well as long-distance learning programs.

“The Annenberg Foundation is honored to help create this vitally important center that will educate all Americans about the Constitution and its continuing importance in our lives,” said Mrs. Leonore Annenberg. “The late Ambassador Annenberg and I shared a deep and long-standing commitment to education and citizenship. I have every confidence that the Center’s educational programs will give dynamic expression to the ideals and responsibilities of American citizenship,” she added.

In March of 2006, the Annenberg Foundation presented the Center with a landmark five-year, \$6.4 million grant to support seven programs under the Constitution Center’s Annenberg Center

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ADD ONE/EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

for Education and Outreach, further positioning the Center as a national leader in constitutional education and programming, and civic engagement.

“The Annenberg Foundation was a major contributor to the National Constitution Center’s capital campaign, and we are thrilled that they have chosen to support the Center’s continued growth as a national engine for civics with this extraordinary grant,” said National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. “Mrs. Annenberg and the Foundation are great believers in the importance of national civic education, and it is through their generosity that we will be able to create these seven civic and public initiatives that will help us truly live up to the ‘National’ in our name.”

The four new programs include the following:

- **Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution;**
- The *Exchange* Series;
- *Headed to the White House* exhibition;
- **National Teacher Institutes.**

Existing programs which will also benefit significantly from the grant include the following:

- **Constitution Day;**
- **The Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD);**
- Curriculum development for the new **National Constitution Center Partnership High School.**

In addition to the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, visitors discover the Constitution through a variety of programs specifically designed for families, schools, and adults. Constitution Center visitors can customize and enrich their experience by interacting with interpreters throughout the galleries. Visitors also receive their own copy of the Constitution to use as a basic reference tool.

The Constitution Center will reach more than 200,000 students, grades 2-12, each year on field trips and in their classrooms. The Center’s staff, in conjunction with education advisors, can develop programs that support the history and civics standards of classroom teachers.

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ADD TWO/EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The National Constitution Center also hosts an annual conference for teachers nationwide on how to teach constitutional history and civics. In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and the Center's visiting scholars, the Center focuses on deepening knowledge of the Constitution, introducing new methods for teaching social studies and how to access Web resources. In addition to on-site programming, the Center's staff will visit classrooms, after-school programs, community centers, and libraries to discuss current constitutional issues in the news.

The Center is committed to bringing together the best minds in the academic and legal worlds with the general public. The Distinguished Scholars Advisory Panel, with its national outreach, advises on applications to the visiting scholar, funded lecturer and book programs. Adult visitors with a special interest in the Constitution can participate in discussions and enjoy special publications through the Center's partnership with the University of Pennsylvania and its press.

Teachers who are interested in making a reservation for a class trip can call 215.409.6800 or email groupsales@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. 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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