

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STUDENTS CREATE POLITICAL PLATFORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES DURING *THE EXCHANGE* AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

MTV's SuChin Pak to Host; Live Internet Broadcast Available

Philadelphia, PA (September 10, 2008) – The National Constitution Center, with generous support from the Annenberg Foundation, will host the fourth installment of *The Exchange* on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in the Center's Bogle Chariman's Room. Student leaders from schools across the country, both at the Center and live via Internet2 videoconferencing, will continue a roundtable discussion about issues in the current presidential election that began in May, which culminated in the creation of a student agenda for the presidential candidates. The focus of this installment will be the creation of a student political platform for the candidates. *MTV's SuChin Pak* will host.

During *The Exchange: Setting the Student Agenda for 2008* in May, students decided to include education, the war in Iraq, the economy, healthcare, and the environment as part of their agenda. Now, through deliberation, research, and prior knowledge, the students will delve into these contemporary issues and assess how they affect the world around them.

The scholarly advisor for *The Exchange: Setting the Student Platform for 2008* will be **Dr. J. Michael Hogan**, the co-director of the Center for Democratic Deliberation of Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Hogan will facilitate the program, answer questions, and offer special insight into the issues that will be discussed.

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ADD ONE/THE EXCHANGE

Any school in the country can view a live broadcast of *The Exchange* over the Internet and become a part of the conversation by emailing questions. Anyone wishing to watch the live broadcast should log on to www.constitutioncenter.org/exchange between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. EST on September 23, and click on the provided link. For additional information about participating in the program, please contact Jason Allen at 215.409.6644 or jallen@constitutioncenter.org by September 12, 2008.

Each installment of *The Exchange* is designed to ignite a constitutional dialogue about a different hot topic among students. The program enables educators to provide their students with the necessary resources to meaningfully take part in the conversation and continue it in their classrooms.

Prior to *The Exchange*, participating schools will receive an event-specific curriculum developed by the Education staff at the Center. The curriculum initiates the student conversation with an activity designed to help students understand the source of their political values. Following this activity, students will be asked to research and deliberate the issues on the agenda.

Previous *Exchange* programs have dealt with religious expression in schools, as well as school violence and the balance of school safety and students' constitutional rights in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings.

This is the fourth installment of *The Exchange* hosted by SuChin Pak. Pak joined MTV News as a correspondent in May 2001. Since joining the team, she has co-hosted MTV's pre-Grammy show and has covered the MTV Video Music Awards, MTV Movie Awards, and the Sundance Film Festival. Pak was an integral part of MTV's 2004 Choose or Lose Campaign, which sought to get 20 million young people to vote. She covered the September 11th aftermath for MTV News, contributing segments on young people volunteering and Muslim-American women. In 2005, Pak traveled to Thailand to cover the aftermath of the tsunami. Following Hurricane Katrina, she also visited Baton Rouge, Louisiana to report on college students at Louisiana State University who aided rescue and recovery efforts. Born in Korea, Pak and her family moved to the Bay Area when she was 5 years old. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in political science.

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ADD TWO/THE EXCHANGE

Dr. J. Michael Hogan is a professor of Communication Arts and Science at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Hogan's specific research interests include political campaigns and social movements, foreign policy debates, presidential rhetoric, and public opinion and polling. Hogan teaches a wide variety of courses at the university, including *Political Campaigns in the Age of Television*, *Contemporary American Political Rhetoric*, and *Political Communication and Media*. He is the author of three books, *The Panama Canal in American Politics* (1986), *The Nuclear Freeze Campaign* (1994), and *Woodrow Wilson's Western Tour* (2006). He has served on the editorial board of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, and he currently serves on the editorial board of *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*. Hogan holds a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Exchange is a part of the Center's exciting, year long series, ***Election '08: The Power of We***, which is designed to promote active engagement with the presidential election on the part of students and the general public, and active citizenship throughout the year. *Election '08: The Power of We* includes a variety of on-site public programs, community and national outreach, education initiatives, and a new exhibition, *Headed to the White House*, which opens on Constitution Day, September 17, 2008. CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners for *Election '08: The Power of We*.

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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