

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER AND PENNCORD TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL CIVIC OPPORTUNITIES FAIR FOR STUDENTS**

### ***FEATURING 25 AREA ORGANIZATIONS***

Philadelphia, PA (March 9, 2010) – The National Constitution Center and the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD) will host the second annual Civic Opportunities Fair for Students on Monday, March 29, 2010. The Fair will take place at the Center from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Civic Opportunities Fair is designed to show teens and young adults that there are many enriching and worthwhile ways to get involved in their communities. Cultural and service organizations from the Philadelphia area will showcase internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer opportunities for high school and college students. Karen Kaskey, CEO of PennSERV, will deliver the opening address.

Recent studies by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) indicate that civic learning experiences at a young age lead to increased civic engagement later in life. Additionally, a recent poll taken at the Philadelphia Youth Commission's Mayoral Forum showed that the primary concern of student participants was the threat of recreation center closings and the scarcity of part-time work during the economic downturn.

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## ADD ONE/CIVIC OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

Organizations participating in the Civic Opportunities Fair include:

- A Broader View
- Academy of Natural Sciences
- After School Activities Partnerships
- Campus Compact
- Champions of Caring
- City Year
- Common Cause
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Cradles to Crayons
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- The Franklin Institute
- Galaei Project
- Global Citizen
- Greater Philadelphia Cares
- International Visitors Council
- MANNA
- National Constitution Center
- The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Delaware Valley Chapter
- Philadelphia Reads
- Philadelphia Young Playwrights
- Philadelphia Youth Commission
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Police Athletic League
- West Philadelphia Branch YMCA
- White-Williams Scholars

The Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD) is a unique union of educational, advocacy and governmental organizations committed to improving civic learning for students in grades K-12. PennCORD was created in 2004 in response to *The Civic Mission of Schools* report and is currently supported by the Annenberg Foundation. PennCORD's goal is for every Pennsylvania school to prepare its students to understand and participate in their communities, society and government. PennCORD supports schools across the Commonwealth in their efforts to fulfill their civic mission by offering resources and opportunities to participate in statewide and local programs. Curricular materials and training are available for Keystone Civic Programs, which effectively develop civic engagement in the schools. Founding partners in the coalition include the Pennsylvania Governor's Office of the First Lady; the National Constitution Center; the Pennsylvania Bar Association; and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. For more information, visit [www.penncord.org](http://www.penncord.org).

## ADD TWO/CIVIC OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

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](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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