

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ENGAGES TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN “STATE OF THE UNION BINGO”

Philadelphia, PA (January 19, 2010) – As President Obama delivers his first State of the Union address on January 27, 2010, students across America will be playing “State of the Union Bingo” as a fun homework assignment. The National Constitution Center developed “State of the Union Bingo” as a lesson plan to engage 7th to 12th grade students in the president’s annual address to Congress in a fun and interactive way. The learning tool helps users examine the events and topics addressed by the president, as well as his legislative plan for the coming year. The lesson plan, complete with Bingo cards (see attached sample), is free and available for download at www.constitutioncenter.org/education.

The lesson plan begins in the classroom prior to the address, as teachers provide background information about the constitutional requirements for the State of the Union address. As a homework assignment, students are given a State of the Union Bingo card to use while watching the speech. The Bingo cards contain key words pertaining to current events, phrases the president might say, and actions he or others might make, including “economy,” “Guantanamo,” and “Vice President Stands.” (Winning Bingo is not guaranteed.) Students also have the option to fill out a blank Bingo card. During the next class session, the cards serve as discussion starters and tools to analyze the president’s agenda.

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

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ADD ONE/STATE OF THE UNION BINGO

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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