

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **A CUTTING EDGE MUSEUM OFFERS CUTTING EDGE EDUCATION RESOURCES: THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER UTILIZES INNOVATIVE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGIES**

Philadelphia, PA (April 14, 2009) – The National Constitution Center incorporates innovative museum technologies into its exhibitions, offering over 100 interactive exhibits, iPod tours, and multimedia presentations. In addition, the Center's education department utilizes current technologies in order to provide up-to-the minute learning for both students and teachers on the Center's website, [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

Launched in January 2009, the daily Civic Learning Blog connects current constitutional issues to classroom instruction. Written for teachers, each daily blog entry contains either a link to one of the Center's lesson plans or a suggested classroom activity with a constitutional connection. The blog is updated by the Center's education team, with occasional guest blog posts from scholars. Looking at timely issues such as same-sex marriage, clean coal, women's rights, and the president's cabinet positions, the blog encourages deliberation and debate about these issues among students and provides resources to help educators effectively teach current events with a constitutional connection.

The Constitution Newswire, containing daily news stories related to the Constitution, is another resource for teachers to incorporate current events into their lessons. Newswire updates are available via daily e-mail subscription, RSS feed, and on the Center's website to provide access to top constitutional new stories from major media outlets around the world.

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## ADD ONE/EDUCATION TECHNOLOGIES

*The Exchange: A Marketplace of Student Ideas* offers an exciting way for high school students to discover how peers in their classrooms, as well as classrooms around the world, view important constitutional issues. Using internet video conferencing technology, *The Exchange* links students from across the globe, allowing them to deliberate in a unique setting. Students from California, Texas, Minnesota, and even Puerto Rico and Canada have participated in the past, discussing timely topics such as religious expression in schools, the balance of school safety and students' constitutional rights, and race and the Constitution. *The Exchange* has its own online community where students can post ideas and discussions in a forum. A Facebook application is also available, allowing students to vote on the issues most important to them.

In addition, interactive games and exhibits on the Center's website, such as *Seize the Vote*, which tests students' knowledge of voting rights, and *Abraham Lincoln's Crossroads*, which invites students to learn about Lincoln's leadership by exploring the political choices he made, foster a deeper understanding of civics and government among students. The Center also recently launched a virtual exhibit on Barack Obama's Race Speech at the Constitution Center, including full video of the speech with a chapter index and a scrolling transcript, quotes from media personalities and historians about the significance of the speech, an image gallery of photographs from the event and of the Center's signed copy of the speech, and a special high school lesson plan designed to show the process of perfecting the Union through changes made to the Constitution.

The Center's evening programs, available in podcast form, offer a unique way to bring authors, historians, and journalists such as Ken Burns, Tom Brokaw, Andrea Mitchell, and Michael Beschloss into the classroom. These free podcasts can be downloaded directly from the Center's website, making new content instantly available to teachers. Students can discuss relevant issues about history and the Constitution through programs on the economy, globalization, the presidency, and more. For teachers who want a visual stimulus for their students, video footage of the Center's programs is also available on FORA.TV with easy chapter access and highlights.

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## ADD TWO/EDUCATION TECHNOLOGIES

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

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