

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STUDENTS DELIBERATE THE QUESTION:
*SHOULD A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT BE A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT?
DURING “THE EXCHANGE” AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER***

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

Philadelphia, PA (April 2, 2009) – Students from schools across the country, both at the National Constitution Center and live via Internet2 videoconferencing technology, will join in a roundtable discussion about the concept of whether or not a clean and healthy environment should be a constitutional right during the Center’s sixth installment of ***The Exchange: A Marketplace of Student Ideas*** on Earth Day – Wednesday, April 22, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST.

During this installment of *The Exchange*, students will examine President Obama’s video message to the Governors’ Global Climate Summit, as well as pertinent legislation such as the Clean Air Act and the Constitution’s Commerce Clause, in order to debate the question, *Should a clean and healthy environment be a constitutional right?* Students will discuss the necessity of amending the Constitution in order to protect the environment.

Schools participating in *The Exchange* include:

- Ballard High School, Louisville, KY*
- Cheltenham High School, PA
- Ranier High School, WA*
- Shamokin High School, PA*
- Springfield High School, PA

* Denotes school participating via Internet2

Any school in the country can view a live broadcast of *The Exchange* over the Internet and become a part of the conversation by e-mailing questions. Anyone wishing to watch the live broadcast

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ADD ONE/ THE EXCHANGE

should log on to www.constitutioncenter.org/exchange between 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. EST on April 22, 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.

This is the fifth 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.

The scholarly advisor and moderator for this edition of *The Exchange* is **Dr. J. Michael Hogan**, the co-director of the Center for Democratic Deliberation of Pennsylvania State University. Hogan's specific research interests include political campaigns and social movements, foreign policy debates, presidential rhetoric, and public opinion and polling. He is the author of three books, *The Panama Canal in American Politics*, *The Nuclear Freeze Campaign*, and *Woodrow Wilson's Western Tour*. Hogan 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*. He holds a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Prior to *The Exchange*, schools will receive a curriculum poster developed by the education staff at the Center. The front side of the poster initiates the student conversation with a Town Hall Wall, a format pioneered at the Center and used in its permanent exhibition. The opposite side of the poster displays the curriculum designed to encourage students to look at the issue of environmental regulation from a variety of perspectives and then find political and economic measures to address global climate change. The Town Hall Wall lesson plan poster will be distributed in the April edition

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ADD TWO/ THE EXCHANGE

of *The New York Times Upfront* magazine.

Previous *Exchange* programs have focused on issues such as religious expression in schools, school violence, and the balance of school safety and students' constitutional rights in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings. During the most recent *Exchange* program, students debated the question, *Is the Constitution Colorblind?*

The Exchange is made possible with support from the Annenberg Foundation.

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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