

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kathleen Maher
Press and Events Coordinator
215.409.6623
kmaher@constitutioncenter.org

**STUDENTS DELIBERATE THE QUESTION:
*SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT MAKE SURE THAT EVERY AMERICAN
HAS AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE?*
DURING “THE EXCHANGE” AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Planet Green Network’s SuChin Pak to Host; Live Internet Broadcast Available

Philadelphia, PA (October 16, 2009) – The National Constitution Center, with generous support from the Annenberg Foundation, will host the eighth installment of *The Exchange*, an innovative national videoconference that engages high school students in deliberation about current political issues in a format promoting mutual respect. On Friday, November 6, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST, students from schools across the country will address the topic of healthcare reform and whether or not the government should play a role in securing affordable health insurance for all Americans. SuChin Pak, of “G Word” on the Planet Green Network, will host.

During this installment of *The Exchange*, students will examine proposals for healthcare reform and various perspectives on the level of government involvement in the health insurance industry. Students will also discuss the increasing cost of healthcare, healthcare reform’s effect on the health insurance industry, and alternative plans for reform, in order to devise a plan for the future of healthcare in the United States.

Schools participating in *The Exchange* include:

- Abington High School, PA
- Bayside Academy, AL*
- Delaware Valley 9-10 High School, PA*
- Denbigh High School, VA*
- Florence-Carlton High School, MT*
- J.R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration High School, PA
- MaST Charter Community High School, PA
- Mohawk High School – Kenyon College Academic Partnership, OH*

-MORE-

ADD ONE/HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE

- Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice, PA
- Propel Andrew Street High School, PA*
- Rainier High School, WA*
- Renaissance Academy, PA*
- Springfield High School, PA*
- St. Agnes Academy Upper School, TN*
- The Wise and Pure School, PA

* Denotes school participating via Internet2

Students will participate in the deliberation both at the Center and via video conference. Any school in the country can view a live broadcast of the event at www.constitutioncenter.org/exchange, where curricular material to support classroom discussion of the topic is also available.

Prior to *The Exchange*, participating schools will receive a curriculum poster developed by the education staff at the Center to encourage students to examine and evaluate the issue of healthcare from a variety of perspectives. The front side of the poster is designed to initiate student conversation with a Town Hall Wall, a format pioneered at the Center and used in its permanent exhibition, which presents the basics of an issue and various options for its resolution. The opposite side of the poster, created for teachers, displays the curriculum, including lesson plans and student handouts.

SuChin Pak is the host of “G Word,” a daily news series about innovation in the environmental space, on the Planet Green Network. Prior to joining the Planet Green Network, Pak served as an MTV News correspondent. While part of the MTV news team, she co-hosted MTV’s pre-Grammy show and covered the MTV Video Music Awards, the MTV Movie Awards, and the Sundance Film Festival. Pak was also an integral part of MTV’s 2004 *Choose or Lose* Campaign, which sought to encourage young people to vote. In addition, she covered the September 11th tragedy, contributing segments about young volunteers and Muslim-American women. In 2005, Pak traveled to Thailand to cover the aftermath of the tsunami. Following Hurricane Katrina, she visited Baton Rouge 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 five years old. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in political science.

-MORE-

ADD TWO/HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE

The scholarly advisor and moderator for this edition of *The Exchange* is **Dr. J. Michael Hogan**, co-director of the Center for Democratic Deliberation of Pennsylvania State University. Hogan's 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 a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Each installment of *The Exchange* is designed to stimulate dialogue among students about a current constitutional issue. Previous *Exchange* programs have focused on topics such as religious expression in schools, school violence, and the balance of school safety and students' constitutional rights. During the most recent *Exchange* program, students discussed the issue of immigration reform in the United States. For more information about *The Exchange*, please contact Jason Allen at 215.409.6644 or jallen@constitutioncenter.org.

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.

###