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Symposium examines Nebraska's international role

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale will host a foreign affairs symposium on Oct. 1 in Lincoln that will focus on strengthening Nebraska's ties to the international community.

"The Secretary of State's Foreign Affairs Symposium will bring together government, education, business and foreign representatives to consider and shape Nebraska's future growth of commercial, educational and cultural ties with foreign nations," Gale said.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol. Registration begins at 12:45 p.m., and the program starts at 1:15 pm.

Gov. Dave Heineman, recently back from an Asian trade mission, will give the keynote address at 1:30 p.m.

Other topics that will be covered at the symposium include international student programs, international education partnerships, attracting foreign graduate students and community international outreach efforts.

Nebraska Congressman Jeff Fortenberry will address an invitation-only luncheon at the Governor's Mansion that will honor the foreign diplomats attending the symposium.

"Hopefully, the symposium will increase public awareness on the many benefits to Nebraska from building international connections," Gale said.

Gale is hosting the symposium in his capacity as chief protocol officer of the state for international relations.

Gale's office has contact with hundreds of foreign visitors and dignitaries each year. To expand international ties, his office sponsors the foreign affairs symposium in Lincoln and a conference for foreign diplomats in Omaha.