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Gale honors Bellevue woman for promoting voter education

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale has honored Kathy Holkeboer of Bellevue for her exemplary efforts to promote voter education for 18 years.

Holkeboer is the recipient of the Secretary of State's Civics Recognition Award for her leadership of the Voters Information Packet (VIP), which provides nonpartisan information on candidates and issues appearing on the ballot.

VIP, which started in 1992, makes no endorsements and is operated by volunteers.

For the 2010 primary and general elections, VIP offered voter information online and in paper editions geared to six eastern Nebraska counties: Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Seward and Washington.

"Kathy Holkeboer's dedication to the mission of providing nonpartisan information to voters is unmatched in Nebraska," Gale said.

VIP's website gets heavy use. For the 2010 general election, the website had over 400,000 hits. The website had over 500,000 hits for the 2008 general election (a presidential election).

"I'm a teacher at heart," Holkeboer said in explaining her dedication for the project.

"The main motivation is that I want people to know what they are doing," she said. "I want them to be informed."

Holkeboer will formally receive the award at an event in her honor scheduled for Jan. 27 in Papillion.

She was nominated for the award by Sarpy County Election Commissioner Wayne Bena.

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