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## Nevada receives funding for student voter education

Nevada Secretary of State Ross Miller's Office and Nevada Department of Education awarded Student Mock Election grant

(Carson City, NV; September 23, 2009)- Secretary of State Ross Miller announced today that Nevada is one of seven recipients of a national grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) for programs to encourage students to become lifelong political participants. The Secretary of State and the Nevada Department of Education are the only statewide offices to have received a national grant from the EAC, which received a total of 47 applications from across the country. Secretary Miller and the Department of Education (NDE) will create an interactive outreach event known as Nevada Voting Day.

"This is a great opportunity to get students involved in the voting process," said Secretary of State Ross Miller. "The mock election provides students with a real experience of the electoral process. We hope to instill the importance of political participation in an active and responsible generation."

The Nevada Voting Day program extends outreach to students of all academic, income and geographic areas. Students will have the opportunity to conduct research on major campaign issues, view voting machine demonstrations and attend forums to interact with candidates for

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office. The program is focused on implementing voter education and stimulating enthusiasm for future participation.

For the 2008 election, Secretary Miller partnered with the NDE to implement the National Student/Parent Mock Election project in which 23,800 students from 111 schools in 14 school districts voted.

The Secretary of State's office will provide election training, technical assistance, and fiscal oversight to the project, while the Department of Education, under the direction of Stephanie Hartman, K – 12 Social Studies Consultant, will work closely with the states' school districts to recruit teachers and schools who are interested in participating in the program.

“Voting is such an important aspect of being a member of a democratic society,” said Hartman. “Securing this grant has allowed us to provide teachers and students with opportunities to become more involved in the voting process. These opportunities will foster student thinking so they embrace the idea that voting is a privilege, not a right.”

The federal grant is \$45,000 and will be budgeted throughout the program's two year period. High school students in all Nevada county school districts will be encouraged to participate.

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