

Public Invited to Town Hall Live Webcast on U.S.-China Relations Oct. 29 at NET

Nebraskans can join a live webcast on the relationship between the United States and China beginning at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29, at NET, 1800 N. 33rd St. in Lincoln.

United States Ambassador to China Gary Locke will be featured in the free, public webcast that connects audiences in 60 communities nationwide. Locally NET, the Lincoln Community Foundation and the Confucius Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are co-presenting the event in partnership with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. This is the sixth annual China Town Hall event; this year's theme is "National Reflections, Local Connections." The event is free and open to the public but seating is limited; to reserve a seat call NET customer service 1-800-868-1868 or log on to netNebraska.org/rsvp.

After the webcast, a panel of Nebraskans who have recently traveled to China or have some expertise in the topic of U.S.-China relations, will be part of a town hall-style discussion. Patrice McMahon, associate professor of political science at UNL, will facilitate the conversation on topics related to education, economics, trade and labor. Other participants will be Nebraska State Sen. Greg Adams (District 24, York); Steve Joel, superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools; Catherine Lang, director of Nebraska's Department of Economic Development and Commissioner of Labor; Pingan Huang, associate director of UNL's Confucius Institute; Skylar Falter, a bioengineering student from UNL; and Derrick Stevens, a political science student at UNL.

Lincolnite Jeff Cole is helping to bring the webcast to Nebraska. A self-described "interested citizen," Cole said he believes the "bilateral relationship between the United States and China is the most important relationship for our countries, and for the future of the planet. That's why I felt strongly that Nebraska should be involved in the town hall."

Locke is the 10th Ambassador of the United States to the People's Republic of China. Previously, Locke was U.S. Secretary of Commerce in the Obama administration. As Secretary of Commerce, Locke co-chaired two sessions of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade that resulted in important changes to Chinese trade policy. As governor of Washington State, he strengthened economic ties between China and Washington State, more than doubling the state's exports to China to more than \$5 billion annually.

The National Committee on United States-China Relations is the leading national, non-partisan public affairs organization devoted exclusively to building constructive and durable relationships between the United States and China.

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