



statehouse reporter for a day

November 24, 2009

Dear Members:

KSPA is excited to announce its newest learning opportunity for students, “Statehouse Reporter for a Day,” a combination field trip/reporting contest in which students have the chance to interview state officials and legislators about the issues facing K-12 education in Kansas.

Statehouse Reporter for a Day is set for Thursday, Jan. 28, at the State Capitol in Topeka. The full agenda and contest requirements are on page 2 of this document.

There will be no registration fee for the event, and a generous grant supplied by the Kansas Families for Education Foundation allows for schools who need help traveling to Topeka to apply for a \$500 travel stipend reimbursement to help cover expenses.

Space limitations at the Capitol building require that we limit registration to no more than four students (two print and two broadcast) and one adviser per school. Students will be divided into reporting teams, with one team responsible for producing a news story and the other responsible for producing a broadcast news package. (If a school doesn’t have a broadcast team, it can bring only two print students. If it has only a broadcast team, it can bring only those two students.)

The registration form and instructions are on page 4 of this document. The early registration deadline (for schools wishing to apply for the travel stipend) is Monday, Dec. 14, 2009. The final registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 10, 2010. However, because registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, there is no guarantee that meeting the registration deadline will reserve your spot in Topeka. Once you apply, we will notify you within 72 hours if your application has been accepted.

KSPA wants to thank our guests — including Lt. Gov. Troy Findley, Steve Kraske from The Kansas City Star and First Lady Stacy Parkinson — as well as the Kansas Families for Education Foundation for making this opportunity possible.

We hope to see you in Topeka on Jan. 28, 2010.

Sincerely,



Jeff Browne
KSPA Executive Director
School of Journalism and Mass Communications
University of Kansas
317 Stauffer-Flint Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045
(785) 864-0605





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Schedule

Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010

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| 8:00 a.m. | Students arrive and check in. |
| 8:30 a.m. | Continental breakfast; remarks from Associated Press reporter John Hanna; KSPA Executive Director Jeff Browne outlines contest requirements and student expectations. |
| 9:30 a.m. | Students to Capitol to observe session. |
| 10:30 a.m. | Student press conference with elected officials. |
| 11:30 a.m. | Return to Docking Auditorium for lunch — guest speaker First Lady Stacy Parkinson. |
| 12:00 p.m. | Students hear from Steve Kraske. |
| 12:30 p.m. | Students return to the Capitol to interview hometown legislators, observe committee meetings, gather information for stories. |
| 2:00 p.m. | Students return home back to school. |

Contest Requirements

Prior to Jan. 28, it will be the students' responsibility, with the help of their advisers, to keep current on issues facing the legislature in its 2010 session, specifically those issues regarding K-12 education. Students must bring to the press conference all preparatory material and a list of relevant questions for the press conference.

All written stories must be completed by Monday, Feb. 1 and sent as a PDF document to jeffbrowne@ku.edu. Video crews will have until Feb. 5 to edit and e-mail their compressed video files to the same address, or post them to Vimeo, YouTube or SchoolTube and send the link in an e-mail to jeffbrowne@ku.edu. Entries will be judged by University of Kansas journalism faculty. Winners will be posted online at kspaonline.org by Feb. 15.

ALL STORIES MUST

- Be focused on a K-12 education issue facing the Kansas legislature in its 2010 session;
- Be written in a balanced, fair news style, complete with an objective tone;
- Contain at least three key sources that reflect a variety of views on the subject at hand;
- Be either 600 to 1,200 words in length (print) or no more than 3 minutes long (broadcast packages).

Print stories can be turned in with any relevant photos (with cutlines) that will be used when the story is published in the school's publication(s).

Broadcast stories may be done with or without a stand-up element.





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Guests



Kansas Lt. Gov. Troy Findley (born in Lawrence, Kansas) is a Democrat currently serving as the 48th Lieutenant Governor of Kansas. Findley formerly served as chief of staff to Gov. Mark Parkinson's predecessor, Kathleen Sebelius, and as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives representing part of Douglas County from 1995-2003. As lieutenant governor, Findley will serve as chair of the governor's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Advisory Group and as Parkinson's designee on the Midwest Cancer Alliance Partner Advisory Board.

Steve Kraske is a political correspondent for the Kansas City Star and hosts KCUR's show *Up to Date*, an award-winning one-hour daily public affairs/talk show featuring newsmakers of the Kansas City community. On his show, Kraske discusses both local and national issues including politics, economics, planning and design, history and entertainment.



First Lady Stacy Parkinson is a native Kansan who graduated from University of Kansas with a degree in law. As a practicing attorney, she worked in both the public and private sectors. She has also been a precinct committee person. She co-chaired many non-profit benefits and worked in business enterprises with her husband to develop first-class assisted living facilities. Parkinson has been named co-citizen of the year by United Community Services of Johnson County.



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Registration

School name: _____

Address: _____

Adviser's name: _____ School telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____ Home telephone: _____

Publications students who will attend the conference:

1. _____ Grade: _____

2. _____ Grade: _____

Television production students who will attend the conference:

1. _____ Grade: _____

2. _____ Grade: _____

Attending sponsor (if different than adviser listed above):

Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

I want to apply for a \$500 travel reimbursement stipend from the Kansas Families for Education Foundation, and I have attached a one-page letter to this form that enumerates the reasons why my students would not be able to attend without the stipend. Those requesting this reimbursement must apply by Monday, Dec. 14. (Stipends are limited to seven schools.)

Please mail to: KSPA
School of Journalism, University of Kansas
1425 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66047
Phone: 785-864-0605
staff@kspaonline.org

Early Registration (for stipend applicants) is Monday, Dec. 14
Final Registration Deadline is Thursday, Jan. 10

