



National Energy Foundation
PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Janet Hatch
National Energy Foundation
801-908-5800; Email info@nef1.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shannon Poulson
National Energy Foundation
801-908-5800; Email shannon@nef1.org

UTAH GOVERNOR TO SPEAK AT STATE EDUCATIONAL EVENT

State Debate Program kicks off 14th year with Governor Olene Walker as conference keynote speaker

SALT LAKE CITY (January 7, 2004) - Over 500 Utah teachers and students from grades four through nine will meet at Mt. Jordan Middle School in Sandy, Utah Saturday, January 10, 2004 to learn from professionals dealing with Utah biodiversity issues.

This event heralds the start of the 2004 Utah Debate Program and participants in this year's conference represent a portion of the anticipated 10,000 or more students preparing to research this year's debate resolutions. Saturday's event schedule is as follows:

2004 UTAH DEBATE PROGRAM CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 10, 2004
9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.
MT. JORDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
9360 South 300 East, Sandy, Utah

9:00 AM General Session in Auditorium
[Keynote Speaker – Governor Olene Walker](#)
Mock Debate – Eastwood Elementary

10:00 – 11:55 AM Breakout Sessions

- Session 1 10:00 – 10:25
- Session 2 10:30 – 10:55
- Session 3 11:00 – 11:25
- Session 4 11:30 – 11:55

10:00 – 11:55 AM Marketplace

12:00 – 12:30 PM Q&A Session (Question and Answer)

Utah Governor Olene Walker will be featured as this year's Debate Conference keynote speaker. Governor Walker was born in Ogden, Utah and is well acquainted with state environmental issues. She received her Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees from Brigham Young University, Stanford University and the University of Utah, respectively. With a strong academic background, Governor Walker has pledged to keep education as the highest funding priority and to provide a nurturing environment for Utah's students. Her personal willingness to participate at this conference provides exemplary proof of her commitment to state educational needs.

Here are the 2004 Utah State Debate resolutions:

Policy Resolution: "RESOLVED: THAT THE STATE OF UTAH DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY."

Lincoln-Douglas Resolution: "RESOLVED: THAT RECREATIONAL USE OF UTAH LAND MUST TAKE PRIORITY OVER PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY."

Teachers and students will attend breakout sessions presented by representatives from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Hawkwatch International, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Cooper, Roberts, Simonsen Architecture, ATV Association, Utah State Parks and Recreation, Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Tree Utah, Bureau of Land Management, Sundance Resort, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Issues Group, and Envision Utah.

At the conclusion of the conference, participants will take information they've obtained and share with other student debaters at their respective schools. Each will then prepare arguments in support of or against the debate resolutions, and finally have opportunities to compete within their schools, districts and possibly at the April 2004 Final State Debate Competition.

The Utah Debate Program is in the 14th consecutive year under the leadership of the National Energy Foundation with additional sponsorship this year provided by the Utah Energy Office (UEO), Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Kennecott Utah Copper. Students from many regions in the state have been invited to participate. This is a voluntary curriculum tool that provides an outstanding avenue through which students may develop their thinking, reading, writing, listening, decision-making and public speaking skills.

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