



CAPITAL REGION CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOOL NEWS RELEASE /ADVISORY

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Media coverage is encouraged: Please contact Joanne Guilmette at the NYS Museum at 474-8730

9/11 anniversary inspires reflections on life, government, liberty by New Visions: Law & Government students at State Museum's World Trade Center exhibit, on Monday, Sept. 12

They may have been small children at the time, but the events of 9/11/2001 still had great impact upon the lives and thoughts of the high school seniors in Richard Bader's New Visions: Law & Government class, a program of the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School.

With the New York State Museum's "The World Trade Center: Rescue Recovery Response" exhibition as their backdrop, the students will read essays they've written about 9/11 on Monday, Sept. 12, from 9:15 – 11:15 a.m. at the museum on Madison Avenue in Albany. As aspiring lawyers, public policymakers and elected officials who focus closely on the Constitution, the courts and the government, the students will undoubtedly offer up slightly different perspectives about the events of that day. Indeed, the students' classroom is just steps from the State Capitol in Albany.

This is the ninth year the New Visions: Law & Government class has observed the anniversary of the terrorist attacks through an essay reading and reflection at the museum. This year's students come from school districts including: Schenectady, Schalmont, Middleburgh, Mohonasen, South Colonie, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Troy, and Hoosick Valley.

"Years later, the events of 9/11 and their aftermath remain formative of U.S. policy and politics," said New Visions: Law & Government Teacher Rich Bader. "Today's high school students were in elementary school then and are, for the most part, far removed from the intense and jarring character of the events of that day. The World Trade Center exhibit captures the profound, evocative nature of a great 'teachable moment' and enables my class to step back in time," noted Bader, who is also an attorney and professor.

"Much of current U.S. policy, which our class will study, is related to 9/11 - wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, national debt and deficit spending, national security powers, and even the development of alternative energy," Bader said. "Our essay project promotes understanding of the interconnectedness of this event, the constitutional foundations intended to balance liberty with security, and current public policy."

Bader noted that prior to going to the exhibit, the students watch an October 2001 "West Wing" episode, "Isaac and Ishmael," which explores American reactions to acts of terrorism and some misconceptions about Muslims.

New Visions: Law & Government is a unique career-exploration program for academically competitive high school seniors. New Visions students spend three and one-half hours each school day in the program, and their classroom is located in the State Education Building across from the Capitol.

They study Political Science, English, Law and Economics and earn high school, Advanced Placement and college credit, but not only through traditional methods: Two days out of five are spent in internships and field experiences throughout the public and private sector of law and government, including the New York State Attorney General's office, the New York State Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, Court of Claims, Family Court, the New York State Senate and Assembly, New York State Police and various public interest organizations.

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New Visions: Law & Government is one of 40 programs of study offered to high school and adult students by the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School. For more information, visit www.capitalregionboces.org/CareerTech.

The New York State Museum exhibition, "The World Trade Center: Rescue Recovery Response," opened on Sept. 2, 2002 as the nation's first permanent museum exhibition of artifacts documenting the September 11th attack at the World Trade Center (WTC). The exhibition is located in a 4,500-square foot gallery in the museum's New York Metropolis Hall. Its centerpiece is the heavily damaged Engine 6 pumper, one of the first fire trucks to respond to the scene, as well as video and many other objects and images chronicling this tragic chapter in the nation's history. The exhibition tells the story of the World Trade Center, the rescue efforts after the attacks, the recovery operation at the Fresh Kills landfill and the public response in media, memorials and oral histories. This exhibition and a new exhibition, "Reflecting on September 11, 2001" will be open on Sunday, September 11.

The New York State Museum, a cultural program of the New York State Department of Education's Office of Cultural Education, was founded on a tradition of scientific inquiry. Started in 1836, the museum has the longest continuously operating state natural history research and collection survey in the United States. The State Museum is located on Madison Avenue in Albany. It is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission is free. Further information about programs and events can be obtained by calling (518) 474-5877 or visiting the museum website at www.nysm.nysed.gov.

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Additional info that might be of interest to the media:

The New Visions: Law & Government students were provided the following to consider when working on their essays:

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." - *Wendell Phillips (1811-1884), abolitionist, orator and columnist for The Liberator, paraphrasing John Philpot Curran in a speech before the Massachusetts Antislavery Society in 1852, according to The Dictionary of Quotations edited by Bergen Evans*

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."-- *Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania (1759)*

"My country right or wrong' is like saying 'my mother drunk or sober'"— *G.K. Chesterton*

"Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it." - *George Bernard Shaw*

"Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he doesn't become a monster." - *Frederick Wilhelm Nietzsche*

"One man with courage is a majority." - *Thomas Jefferson*

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty." - *John F. Kennedy*

"When government takes responsibility for people, then people no longer take responsibility for themselves." -*George Pataki*

"I cannot believe that war is the best solution. No one won the last war and no one will win the next." - *Eleanor Roosevelt*

"The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground." - *Thomas Jefferson*
"Patrick Henry did not say, 'Give me absolute safety or give me death.' " - *John Stossel, "Give Me a Break", Aug. 3, 2001*

"Freedom is not for the timid." - *Posted as an announcement outside a Unitarian Church in Texas on Sept. 17, 2001*

"The Romans used to say that courage is not the only virtue, but it's the only one that makes the other virtues possible." - *Benjamin Netanyahu to Brian Lamb on C-SPAN's Washington Journal, Sept. 21, 2001*

"Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and lost it, have never known it again." - *Ronald Reagan*