

June 2007

Greetings Interfaith Academies Participants:

On behalf of the State of Kansas it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this gathering for the Interfaith Academies study here in Kansas City. I am pleased to pass along my warm wishes for what I hope will be a most memorable experience.

The nation is growing in its awareness of religious pluralism, and I'm proud that our Great State has been included in that progress. Kansas is home to many different cultures, faiths and houses of worship, and we realize the importance of embracing our religious diversity. I've even begun my own inaugural observances with an interfaith service. We'd like to extend our hospitality and make you feel welcome as you all continue in your studies.

I am proud that the Harvard University's Pluralism Project and Religions for Peace-USA at the United Nations Plaza have selected the Heartland for this pioneering pilot program. I commend the collaboration with the Saint Paul School of Theology and the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council to partner in this program, the first such training program in the nation. Thank you for your dedication to bring about awareness and understanding of the faiths that are now an integral part of our nation and the State of Kansas.

Again welcome to the Interfaith Academies study and I hope you enjoy your stay. I applaud your efforts to encourage and convey the message of deepened respect for our various and individual spiritual paths, while enlarging the united heritage that we enjoy as Kansans and Americans. Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius  
Governor of the State of Kansas

KGS:cd