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## Building a Strong Generation of Future Leaders

*By Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning*

As a parent, I know it's not always easy to motivate kids. This can be especially true during the teenage years. It's important to give our children positive opportunities to learn and become invested in their community. That is why I established the Youth Advisory Council as a state senator and continued it as attorney general. It's now called the Attorney General's Youth Advisory Council (AGYAC), and it's designed to involve young Nebraskans in the processes of government and law. It also provides a forum for members to share their views on issues by having an open dialogue with leaders from around the state. Our discussions give me a fresh perspective on the issues we face every day in the Attorney General's Office.

AGYAC members are high school juniors and seniors recommended by educators and other community leaders. The students are required to submit formal applications in order to be considered for council membership. Once selected, members are invited to attend the annual conference held at the State Capitol. This year, more than a hundred students came to the conference. They participated in a series of events including meetings with members of each branch of government, a tour of the Capitol and the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

Engaging our youth in government is the first step in building a strong generation of future leaders for Nebraska. These students are the best and the brightest. They care about their state and they are what make AGYAC a continued success.