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Lawrence International Exchange Students Join Local Girls to Shadow Senate President Steve Morris for a Day at the Capitol

TOPEKA – On Tuesday, February 16, Senate President Steve Morris (R-Hugoton) welcomed International Exchange Students Maria Jose Espinoza and Silvana Anahi Scheid to the capitol to “shadow” him and his staff for the day in the Kansas Senate. The exchange students were accompanied by Ashley Rasmussen and Stephanie Crandon of Lawrence. All four are students at Lawrence Freestate High School; Ashley is a sophomore and the other three girls are seniors.

Senate President Morris said, “It was particularly meaningful two have the two exchange students with us; I hope their visit to the state capitol of Kansas will be among the good memories they carry home to Paraguay. Because I take great satisfaction in serving as a state senator, I always hope the students who visit the capitol will be encouraged by the experience to take part in the affairs of their hometown or state or federal government.”

As “shadows”, the girls sat in on a Republican caucus meeting and attended other committee meetings during the day, as well as observing the Senate in session, debating and voting on a number of pieces of legislation. They also had their photos taken with the Governor and with Senate President Morris.

Maria Jose Espinoza, is the daughter of Carlos Espinoza and Maria Angela Ruiz Diaz, from Encarnacion, Paraguay. Ashley attends Juan XXIII High School in her home town. Her host family in Lawrence are Stan and Teresa Rasmussen and daughter Ashley. Mr. Rasmussen, a civilian employed by the U.S. Army is serving a special Army fellowship in the Senate President’s Office during the 2010 legislative session.

Silvana Anahi Scheid is the daughter of Martin Scheid and Marisol Cabrera de Scheid and is also from Encarnacion, Paraguay. Her host family in Lawrence are Brent and Elizabeth Crandon and daughter Stephanie. Silvana attends Colegio Experimental de la Universidad Catolica de Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion.

Encarnacion is located at the far southeast corner of Paraguay, sharing a border with Argentina formed by the Parana River. It is also very close to a second border between Argentina and Brazil.

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NOTE: Photo attached as jpg

Pictured left to right: Ashley Rasmussen, Stanley Rasmussen, Maria Jose Espinoza, Governor Mark Parkinson, Stephanie Crandon, Silvana Anahi Scheid and Senate President Stephen R. Morris