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Kyoto Exchange Students Keep Full Schedule in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY – Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins is pleased to announce a pending visit this Tuesday from Japanese university students participating in the Kyoto/Oklahoma student exchange program.

The students, who will arrive September 11th and maintain a busy schedule through September 20th, will travel across the state in an effort to learn as much as possible from the 22nd annual exchange program between Japan and the State of Oklahoma.

“We are looking forward to welcoming our Japanese friends to Oklahoma,” said Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins. “This wonderful program has enabled us to establish new friendships and connections between our communities.”

Upon their arrival, the students will tour several noteworthy landmarks, communities and universities. The first stop will be Stillwater, sister city of Kameoka and home of Oklahoma State University. Students will also experience the Oklahoma Capitol, Oklahoma City Memorial Museum, Western Heritage Cowboy Hall of Fame and the excitement of a college football game.

Norman, Oklahoma, sister city of Seika, will feature the state-of-the-art National Weather Center as well as the University of Oklahoma, where students will take in a football game. During the exchange program, students will also visit Tulsa and Broken Arrow, home of Northeastern State University and the University of Central Oklahoma. Each university will host roundtable discussions to help promote communication and understanding.

Following a visit to Lt. Governor Askins’ office and the Oklahoma State Fair, students will join the Lt. Governor in a farewell dinner. Askins, Oklahoma’s 15th Lieutenant Governor, is continuing the tradition set in 1985, when the Office began organizing participation from Oklahoma colleges and universities in order to foster a first-hand cultural experience.

The relationship between Japan and the State of Oklahoma began two years earlier, when then-Lieutenant Governor Spencer Bernard visited Kyoto and made a courtesy call to Governor Hayashida and then Vice-Governor Aramaki. Since then, respective heads-of-state have visited one another nearly every year since.

“I’m proud to continue the tradition of learning and sharing from each other’s proud traditions and cultures. There is so much to enjoy during their stay in Oklahoma – including a football game or two!” said Askins.