CHUCK HAGEL FORUM
IN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
OPENING REMARKS

Fred Kempe
President and CEO
Atlantic Council

Maeve Hemmer
Student Body President and Regent,
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA
Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Omaha

The Hon. Chuck Hagel
24th U.S. Secretary of Defense
U.S. Senator for Nebraska

THE ROLE OF U.S. LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD

The Hon. Janet Napolitano
3rd U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
Governor of Arizona

MODERATED Q&A
WITH AUDIENCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE

The Hon. Janet Napolitano
3rd U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
Governor of Arizona

The Hon. Chuck Hagel
24th U.S. Secretary of Defense
U.S. Senator for Nebraska

Jody Neathery-Castro, Ph.D.
Interim Director of School of Music
Associate Professor of Political Science,
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Janet Napolitano is a professor of public policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy and the founder and faculty director of the Center for Security in Politics at the University of California, Berkeley.

Napolitano was the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013. During her tenure, she led the nation’s efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, respond to natural disasters, and significantly enhanced the nation’s readiness to meet and combat evolving cyber threats.

Napolitano served as the president of the University of California from 2013 to 2020, and was able to stabilize in-state tuition and enroll historic numbers of California undergraduates. She also spearheaded the formation of the University Climate Change Coalition, or UC3, which is a group of 18 leading North American research universities and systems working to help local communities achieve their climate goals and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future.


She earned her B.S. degree (summa cum laude in Political Science) in 1979 from Santa Clara University, where she was a Truman Scholar, and the university’s first female valedictorian. She received her law degree in 1983 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

In 2015, Napolitano was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She serves on the Council of the American Law Institute and is a board member of the Council on Foreign Relations. In March of 2019, Napolitano published How Safe Are We: Homeland Security Since 9/11.
Chuck Hagel was the 24th Secretary of Defense, serving from 2013 to 2015. He is the only Vietnam veteran and the first enlisted combat veteran to serve as Secretary of Defense.

Hagel serves on many boards and committees, including the Board of Trustees of RAND; Centennial Scholar, Georgetown Walsh School of Foreign Service; Distinguished Scholar, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Board of Directors of Public Broadcasting Service (PBS); and Advisory Board Chairman of the HillVets Veterans Organization.

He served two terms in the U.S. Senate (1997-2009) representing the state of Nebraska. He was a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; and Intelligence Committees. He chaired the Foreign Relations International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee; and the Banking Committee’s International Trade and Finance, and Securities Subcommittees. Hagel also served as the Chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and the Senate Climate Change Observer Group.

Secretary Hagel was a Distinguished Professor at Georgetown University and served on the Secretary of Defense’s Policy Board, Secretary of Energy’s Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of Nuclear Power, and Systemic Risk Council Board of Directors.

Before serving in the U.S. Senate, he was president of McCarthy & Company, an investment banking firm in Omaha, Nebraska. He co-founded VANGUARD Cellular Systems, Inc. and was President and CEO of the World USO, and Chief Operating Officer of the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations (G-7 Summit).

He is the author of the book, America: Our Next Chapter. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.
Jody Neathery-Castro, Ph.D. currently serves as Interim Director of the School of Music and Distinguished Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She served as Chair of the Political Science Department from 2015-2021. She helped create and plan the annual Chuck Hagel Global Leadership Forum and the Chuck Hagel Symposium in Public Service and she coordinates and has supported several civic engagement programs at UNO including the Global Civic Literacy program, Internationalization Laboratory, Teachers’ Law School, and the Nebraska Civic Leaders Program.

Neathery-Castro is a Research Fellow at the National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI) at the University of Nebraska and a faculty instructor and research mentor in USSTRATCOM’s Strategic Leadership Fellows Program. Her regional expertise is in European politics and she teaches and researches international relations, comparative politics, gender, and security.

Her recent grant-funded research has examined Gender and Deterrence compliance under the “US Women Peace and Security Act” and evaluated the feasibility of using AI to improve intelligence decision-making and analysis.

She has conducted pedagogical research in the areas of service learning, studying abroad, and civic education. She is a recipient of the university’s Excellence in Teaching Award and the Chancellor’s Medal for distinguished service.

Neathery-Castro received her Ph.D. and M.S. in political science from Rice University and a B.A. in political science and journalism from Texas Christian University.
The Chuck Hagel Forum in Global Leadership explores critical issues with global leaders in search of solutions to today’s global challenges. This series provides students with an opportunity to engage with Sec. Hagel and global leaders, policymakers, and thinkers.

Hagel said he believes that those who have had the privilege of serving this country through public service owe it to the community and future generations to inform and engage them about leadership, their future, and things that will be important for them going forward. Hagel is a graduate of UNO, and the university is a natural forum in which he can share these opportunities with students and the greater community.

The Chuck Hagel Forum in Global Leadership is the second series launched by Sec. Hagel in partnership with UNO in recent years, acting as a complement to the Chuck Hagel Symposium in Public Service. The symposium, first hosted in March and October of 2018, connects hundreds of high school students from the greater Omaha metropolitan area with university and community experts in a variety of fields, all sharing their perspectives on public service.

Hagel said a leader’s job is to leave the institution you came from better than you found it, and he has exemplified this through his continued relationship with UNO.

Atlantic Council

This year’s forum is hosted again in partnership with the Atlantic Council, a nonpartisan organization that galvanizes U.S. leadership and engagement in the world, in partnership with allies and partners, to shape solutions to global challenges.

Secretary Hagel was Chairman of the Atlantic Council from February 2009 to February 2013, and currently is a Distinguished Statesman, serving as a member of the Council’s International Advisory Board.