

Teaching Fellows Program 2008-2009
Teaching American History Grant

“DIGITAL STORYTELLING & THE HISTORY CLASSROOM”

The most immersive component of the *“The Virginia Experiment”*: *Growing Seeds of Democracy in Four Hundred Years of American History* is the Teaching Fellows Program. Annually the executive committee will identify a cadre of “Teaching Fellows” that serve a one-year commitment to more deeply connect the content of grant activities with a strong pedagogical approach to teaching American history. These ten teachers will represent the best of the profession from each county, and our goal is to create and support a strong collegial culture that provides professional, personal, and scholarly growth.

Criteria for acceptance into this esteemed program will include (but not be limited to) years of teaching experience, educational background, and grade level taught. During their tenure, the Teaching Fellows will be required to attend all speaker series seminars. They will receive memberships to historical organizations like the National Council for History Education or the Organization of American Historians. They will work closely with university scholars to conduct research and incorporate best practices in the classroom.

Additionally, Teaching Fellows will work with the Director of Teaching Fellows Program to create a portfolio that includes a learning log detailing their growth as a student of history. The portfolio may contain historical research products, learning activities they have developed, student work samples, and reflections of their growth as a teacher of historical thinking. The portfolio will serve as means for documenting and assessing teacher growth. The work of the Teaching Fellows Program will be designed to be authentic and valuable to both the teaching field and historical community.

The emphasis for the 2008-2009 Teaching Fellows will be 20th Century American history and the continuation of the sustainable, long term project titled “Digital Virginia.” Working with the Center for Digital Story Telling, the Virginia Center for Digital History, and other grant partners teachers will engage in workshops that introduce them to applications of digital media and digital storytelling in the classroom. The Teaching Fellows will then integrate these skills and innovative technologies with content-specific instructional models that emphasize historical inquiry. Collaboratively, they will help build a reservoir of digital narratives, historical research products, and instructional activities. Teachers will be encouraged, but limited to focus on 20th century history. “Digital Virginia” will become a model to share both teaching strategies and content-based activities as well as inform future historical projects.

PRIMARY FUNCTION

To provide curriculum leadership as an annual cadre of ten (10) Teaching Fellows as defined by the Teaching American History grant.

QUALIFICATIONS

For consideration, applicants should

1. hold or be eligible for highly qualified certification in history
2. have demonstrated leadership qualities and personal characteristics necessary for working effectively with students, teachers, and administrators.
3. have at least one year of successful experience as a teacher of American history and be a current faculty member in one of five consortium school divisions.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Teaching Fellows will be expected to work with the Director of Teaching Fellows Program to understand the scope and purpose of this program, to create a workflow and timeline for the creation of materials related to this program and coordinate efforts with partnering organizations and staff. The Teaching Fellows will also be expected to work with regard to the responsibilities listed below.

1. To contribute to a “first among equals” approach to creating a community of scholars and teachers between a five school division consortium.
2. To attend and participate in all grant design activities, including the annual Speaker Series events.
3. To design, implement, and complete a collaborative digital portfolio to display growth as a teacher and application of digital media and storytelling in the teaching of American history.
4. To collaborate with the technical developers of the Virtual Community to integrate the work of the Teaching Fellows Program.
5. To participate in a 1-2 day Research Retreat that will occur during September, 2008. This retreat may include a Saturday.
6. To participate in regular monthly meetings of the Teaching Fellows, including a 3-day Digital Storytelling Retreat in January/February, 2009. This retreat will include a Saturday.
7. Attend the summer 2009 “Civil Rights” Teacher Institute in Danville, VA (Dates TBD). Also understands that Teaching Fellows are NOT eligible to receive any stipend associated with non-teaching fellow participation.
8. To provide professional leadership by presenting and/or attending regional and national conferences.
9. To receive and participate in full membership of an annual historical organization like the National Council for History Education or the Organization of American Historians.
10. To provide professional leadership by providing staff development training to home school divisions as well as sharing work in identified grant activities.
11. To represent and inform home division of Teaching Fellows Program.
12. To perform other duties as assigned by the TAH Executive Committee.

TERMS OF COMMITMENT

Selected Teaching Fellows will commit to an annual term of August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009. Each Teaching Fellow will receive an annual honorarium of \$5,000 to be paid in installments of \$500 upon signing letter of commitment \$2250 at completion of mid-year review, and \$2250 upon successfully completing all terms of the program. Grant funds will cover project related costs as approved by Executive Committee (excluding local travel).

In order to have a complete file, the following documents must be submitted to your Division Representative by March 31, 2008:

- A completed Teaching Fellows application
- One example of a best practice lesson plan or activity

Part II: Reflection

In the space provided, please explain why you are interested in joining the Teaching Fellows Program and discuss the strengths and skills which would contribute to your success.

Date _____ Signature _____

Administrator's Statement of Support:

I, the undersigned, support this application for the Teaching Fellows Program.

Date _____ Signature _____

(School Principal)