

Time Travelers: Teaching American History in the Northwest

Principals: please complete below and fax to Dr. Sally Thompson: 406.243.2047

Project Description:

This is the third year of a three-year professional development opportunity for 36 middle and high school U.S. history teachers, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The goals are to 1) increase teacher content knowledge about the Northwest and its integral role in the development of the United States through themes of transportation, communication and energy development from their inception and continuing into the eras of nationalization and globalization; 2) increase teacher research and analysis skills; and 3) enhance mentoring skills and pedagogical practices in teaching U.S. history.

In keeping with the regional theme, this professional development opportunity is the culmination of a collaborative effort among The University of Montana, Twin Bridges Public School District, a consortium of school districts in Montana, Idaho and Washington, the Montana Historical Society, Washington State Historical Society, Eastern Washington Historical Society, and the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL).

Expectations of School Districts and/or Curriculum Consortia:

Support from school administrations is vital to the success of this professional development opportunity. In Year 3 of the project, these partners will receive a stipend to help defray costs associated with mentoring network.

Superintendents and school administrators will be kept apprised of the project implementation to assure project goals, milestones, and timelines are supported, disseminated and implemented by the administration.

Administrators will:

- Support opportunities for program participants to share what they have learned with their colleagues in regional seminars, PIR days, or other settings.
- Permit and help facilitate the evaluation activities where necessary (e.g., will permit evaluators to observe classroom interactions).

Dear Principal:

It is important that selected teachers have the skills to serve effectively as a mentor to their colleagues. Bearing in mind that this professional development will provide three years of training, do you feel that this applicant/teacher is a strong candidate?

Please rank the following, one being limited and five being excellent:

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| – Able to lead colleagues in new approaches to teaching history | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| – Possesses good networking skills | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| – Effective public speaker | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Other comments: (use back if necessary)

Principal's name _____ School _____

Applicant _____

Date _____

Principal's Signature