

Time Travelers: Teaching American History in the Northwest

Applicants: 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).

Responsibilities of Participants:

Those selected will:

- Participate in the program for remaining year (January 2008 through August 2008).
- Participate in 15-week online course offered spring semester (January – May); conduct independent research; and attend the annual Summer Institute. These components constitute a 5-credit course.
- Become Mentors for school district colleagues.
- Collaborate with program evaluators to collect implementation and outcome data.

Online Course Participants will:

- Meet the technology requirements: That is, participants must have easy access to Internet & computer; be comfortable with and regularly use Internet for research and messaging; be willing to use the Blackboard management system; and have quality technology support at the school in case of hardware & software problems.
- Participate in training on The University of Montana's Blackboard course management system.
- Locate, research, analyze and interpret local and regional historical documents, artifacts, Landsat satellite imagery, and other resources (local and regional) as part of their independent research project.
- Participate in discussion boards; post assignments; hold online chats; and email other participants.
- Successfully complete the course by (1) timely submittal of all assignments, (2) presentation of research findings at the Summer Institute, and (3) creation of a unit based on the independent research project, for use in the classroom and to be shared with colleagues.

Summer Institute Attendees will:

Sally Thompson, Ph.D.

The University of Montana

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- Attend Summer Institutes (June 2007 – Helena, MT; June 2008 – Spokane, WA) where participants and history experts can work together in historical research activities.
- Develop and work on independent research projects, using primary historical resources, under the guidance of scholars & peers.
- Present on their independent research projects at each Institute.
- Receive training in effective mentoring.
- Participate in field trips.
- Participate in program evaluation activities.
- Submit expense invoices for travel, meals that are not provided, and lodging where necessary to Twin Bridges School District for reimbursement.

Evaluation Activities:

The evaluation of *Time Travelers* will be conducted by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) in collaboration with The University of Montana.

To support the evaluation, participants will:

- Cooperate with evaluators to collect data and information used for the documentation of program implementation and outcomes.
- Provide candid feedback with the understanding that NWREL evaluators will maintain high standards for protection of privacy and confidentiality, focusing on evaluation of the project and professional development model, and not individual participants.
- Cooperate in the reasonable collection of data through activities such as teacher surveys, periodic student surveys, class observations, feedback forms, and discussions.

Monetary Benefit

- Receive stipend: Year 3 - \$500 for mentoring, presentations at conferences/PIR days, and payment of online course credit. (Online credit course costs: \$135.00 per semester). Travel expenses covered for Summer Institutes.

Please check here to verify that you are assigned to teach American History.

I have read the responsibilities of participants and agree to participate.

Signature of applicant