

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Teaching American History Grant Program

DEPARTMENT: Fiscal Services **DIVISION:** Grants Administration

AUTHORIZED BY: Lisa Spriggs *LS* **CONTACT:** Jennifer Bero *JMB* **EXT.** 7125

Agenda Date <u>02/27/07</u> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work Session <input type="checkbox"/> Briefing <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 1:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 7:00 <input type="checkbox"/>
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MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Approve to partner with the Seminole County School Board for pursuit of the Teaching American History Grant Program, and authorize the Chairman to execute a letter supporting the partnership.

BACKGROUND:

The US Department of Education is offering the Teaching American History Grant Program to support projects that raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of traditional American history. Grant awards assist local educational agencies in partnership with entities that have extensive content experience to develop, document, evaluate, and disseminate innovative and cohesive models of professional development.

The Seminole County School Board is pursuing the grant for their Social Studies program, "Education for America's Future – The Relevance of American History." This program provides workshops that include lectures by eminent scholars in the Central Florida area. Partnered with the School Board for this effort is the University of Central Florida, Lou Frey Institute, Bob Graham Center, Hillsdale College, Orange County Historical Society, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, and the Florida History Museum. A partnership with the Museum of Seminole County History is requested, involving staff lectures and program materials only; no financial support is needed.

A letter detailing support of the Education for America's Future education program and the Board's subsequent partnership is needed for the grant application. Staff requests the Board to approve the partnership and authorize the Chairman to execute a letter indicating such partnership.

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: <i>Coc</i> _____
CM: _____
File No. <u>CFSG06</u>

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



February 27, 2007

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Innovation and Improvement
Teaching American History Application Control Center
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

RE: Teaching American History Grant Application (CFDA# 84.215X)
Partnership with the Seminole County School Board

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, I am pleased to present this letter of support provided to the Seminole County School Board for the Teaching American History Grant Program. As a partner with the school district, the Museum of Seminole County History will be actively involved in the efforts to raise student achievement by helping teachers to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of American History through the "Education for America's Future – The Relevance of American History" program.

Under the guidelines established for the grant, the partnership will develop and implement a three-year plan to improve the level of content knowledge for American History teachers. The district and the Museum of Seminole County History will coordinate efforts that will include, but not be limited to:

- Summer Academics
- Independent Studies
- Focus Groups

If additional information is needed to substantiate the partnership between the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners and the Seminole County School Board for the Teaching American History grant, please contact Jennifer Bero, Grants Administrator, at (407) 665-7125. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carlton D. Henley, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Jennifer Bero, Grants Administrator
Karen Jacobs, Museum Coordinator

Education for America's Future - The Relevance of American History

Year 1:

Lecture Series (LS): Three day-long workshops that include lectures by eminent scholars (University of Central Florida, Lou Frey Institute, Bob Graham Center, Hillsdale College, Museum of Seminole County History, Orange County Historical Society, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, Florida History Museum) and focus groups for the district's grade level teachers and preservice teachers from the University of Central Florida

1. Great American Documents (17th & 18th Century) – November 2007
2. American Heroes (17th & 18th Century) – February 2008
3. Our Democracy – Forming a New Government – May 2008

Teacher Scholar Program (TSP): Six teachers (2 elementary, 2 middle and 2 high) will attend National Council for Social Studies Conference (NCSS) and other pertinent history related events, classes, and symposiums. They will develop workshops for teachers on new ideas, strategies, and networking opportunities in American History. Three teachers (1 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high) will attend the Teachers Institute of Early American History in Williamsburg, Virginia. They will develop workshops for teachers on new ideas, strategies, and networking opportunities in American History. Workshops (W) will be offered district wide during the school year (Wednesday inservice days, pre- and post-planning days, Saturday and evening workshops)

Summer Institute (SI): Year One Topic – Traditional American History

Focus Groups will collaborate with partners to increase content knowledge in traditional American History. Each focus group will be facilitated by a Teacher Scholar and will develop:

- Online Discussion Boards for teachers
- Online courses for teachers and focus units for students

Timeline for 2007-2008

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June
TSP	TSP	W	W	LS, W, NCSS		W	LS, W	W	W	LS, W	TSP, SI

Year 2:

Lecture Series (LS): Three day-long workshops that include lectures by eminent scholars (University of Central Florida, Lou Frey Institute, Bob Graham Center, Hillsdale College, Seminole County Historical Society, Orange County Historical Society, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, Florida History Museum) and focus groups for the district's grade level teachers and preservice teachers from the University of Central Florida

1. Great American Documents (19th & 20th Century) – November 2008
2. American Heroes (19th & 20th Century) – February 2009
3. Our Democracy in Times of Peril (War and the Constitution) – May 2009

Teacher Scholar Program (TSP): Six teachers (2 elementary, 2 middle and 2 high) will attend National Council for Social Studies Conference (NCSS) and other pertinent history related events, classes, and symposiums. They will develop workshops for teachers on new ideas, strategies, and networking opportunities in American History. Six teachers will attend the Summer Institute at the Lou Frey Institute for Politics and Government at the University of Central Florida. They will develop workshops for teachers on new ideas, strategies, and networking opportunities in American

History. Workshops will be offered district wide during the school year (Wednesday inservice days, pre- and post-planning days, Saturday and evening workshops)

Summer Institute: Year Two Topic – American History and the Creation of Civic Responsibility
Focus Groups will collaborate with partners to increase content knowledge and infuse civics education into traditional American History. Each focus group will be facilitated by a Teacher Scholar and will develop:

- Online Discussion Boards for teachers
- Online courses for teachers and focus units for students

Timeline for 2008 - 2009

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June
TSP	TSP	W	W	LS, W NCSS		W	LS, W	W	W	LS, W	TSP, SI

Year 3:

Lecture Series (LS): Three day-long workshops that include lectures by eminent scholars (University of Central Florida, Lou Frey Institute, Bob Graham Center, Hillsdale College, Seminole County Historical Society, Orange County Historical Society, P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, Florida History Museum) and focus groups for the district’s grade level teachers and preservice teachers from the University of Central Florida

1. Great American Documents (Civil Rights and the Constitution) – November 2009
2. American Heroes (Looking at Florida Heroes) – February 2010
3. Our Democracy in a Time of Globalization – May 2010

Teacher Scholar Program (TSP): Six teachers (2 elementary, 2 middle and 2 high) will attend National Council for Social Studies Conference (NCSS) and other pertinent history related events, classes, and symposiums. They will develop workshops for teachers on new ideas, strategies, and networking opportunities in American History. Six teachers will attend the Florida Humanities Council Workshops for Teachers. They will develop workshops for teachers on new ideas, strategies, and networking opportunities in American History. Workshops will be offered district wide during the school year (Wednesday inservice days, pre- and post-planning days, Saturday and evening workshops)

Summer Institute: Year Three Topic – Understanding Florida’s Role in American History
Focus Groups will collaborate with partners to increase content knowledge and infuse Florida’s history into traditional American History. Each focus group will be facilitated by a Teacher Scholar and will develop:

- Online Discussion Boards for teachers
- Online courses for teachers and focus units for students

Timeline for 2009 – 2010

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June
TSP	TSP	W	W	LS, W, NCSS		W	LS, W	W	W	LS, W	TSP, SI