

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Dear Illinois Council for History Education Member:

This newsletter alerts you to two rewarding opportunities: Teaching with Primary Sources Workshops and Red Cross' Humanitarian Law curriculum. This letter also seeks your support for federal funding of the Teaching American History (TAH) program. As you know, federal efforts to reduce our national debt are seeking severe reduction of funding for a long list of education programs. Public response to these efforts does have an impact on Congressional outcomes, so please make an effort to contact your representatives and request that they maintain funding for the TAH program. On another note, if you did not receive the March, 2011, ILCHE Newsletter, it is because your server rejected it. As a ILCHE member, you are entitled to this newsletter. So, if possible, please send me another email for receiving the March, 2011, and future newsletters. Thank you.

TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT:

DePaul University would like to invite you to participate in its Level I Teaching with Primary Sources Program. The program will be offered at DePaul's [Lincoln Park](#) and [Naperville](#) Campuses at the dates and times specified below:

DePaul Lincoln Park Campus
Schmitt Academic Center
2320 N. Kenmore
[June 21st, 22nd, 23rd](#)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch provided

DePaul Naperville Campus
150 W. Warrenville Road
Naperville
[June 28th, 29th, 30th](#)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch provided

The Teaching with [Primary Sources](#) Level I program requires 12 hours of seat time which is scheduled in three-four hour blocks. Each hour of seat time equals one CPDU so total 12 CPDUs.

There is one hour of outside work in order to complete the "Introduction to the [Library of Congress](#)" online self-paced interactive module. The link:

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/selfdirected/introduction.html>

We have had many teachers participate in the program and all teachers report very positive remarks on evaluations. The [Library of Congress site](#) also provides global international resources along with resources for teaching kids government and so forth.

Please take a look at the Teacher's Page that includes classroom materials and wonderful lesson plans:

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/>

We will have a digital camera drawing at the first session and each of you will receive a 2 GB flash drive loaded with resources.

Once you have completed the Level I program you will be invited to participate in the Level II program. The Level II program requires 12 hours of seat time. The date/times of this program have not been determined. The difference between programs is Level II is focused on a topic of your choice. For example, some schools wanted to focus on Lincoln for his bicentennial celebration. Another school wanted to focus on African Americans in Aviation.

We provide books on the topic for each of you and try to get an expert on the topic speak with you. If we are unable to get an expert to bring in, we provide Web casts and so forth on the topic. We had three of the original [WWII Tuskegee airmen](#) recently speak at a session at a [Chicago Charter Academy](#) school.

At the conclusion of Level II sessions, you will be expected to develop one lesson plan on the topic to implement in their classroom. You can decide when you want to implement your lesson plan. Upon completion of the implementation, we video tape it to share on our Web site and you can opt to receive a laptop or LCD projector.

It is really worthwhile and very informative. We make sure to cover the ISBE and [common core standards](#) in the sessions.

Please let me know if I can answer any of your questions. We will need confirmation from you that you plan to attend by [Tuesday, May 31st](#).

Regards,

Margo Tomaras, M.Ed., M.B.A.

312-362-8519

Help Save Teaching American History Grants

Tell Congress not to eliminate TAH Grants. Legislation has been introduced in the [House of Representatives](#) that would eliminate the Teaching American History (TAH) Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Education. This bill (H.R. 1891), "[Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act](#)," would terminate forty-three K-12 federal education programs that the House Republican leadership contends are wasteful, ineffective, and duplicative. Teaching American History grants is the only federal program that funds K-12 history education.

The Illinois Council for History Education joins the [American Historical Association](#) in urging you to [contact your member of Congress](#) immediately and ask them to oppose H.R. 1891.

This [online advocacy tool](#) offers a template message for you to customize. We strongly encourage you to personalize this message by telling Congress why TAH programs are important to you, your institution, your field, your state, and/or district.

The House Education and the Workforce Committee is expected to consider H.R. 1891 at any time. It is important that you [contact](#) your member of the House of Representatives today, and urge them to oppose this bill.

AMERICAN RED CROSS CURRICULUM

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS EXPLORING HUMANITARIAN LAW program offers curricular units for your classroom. To familiarize yourself with these units and download them, free, go to <http://ehl.redcross.org>

Keep connected at www.ILCHE.net.