

History Grows in Oakland: Teaching American History in an Urban School District
A Teaching American History Grant Project
Instructional Services, Oakland Unified School District
Harper Building, Room #5
Oakland, California 94606
www.teachingamericanhistory.us

September 18, 2005

To: Teachers of American History, grades 5, 8 and 11

From: Stan Pesick and Shelly Weintraub, Directors, Teaching American History Grant

Re: Professional development opportunity for teachers of American History

An Invitation

In the spring of 2004 the Oakland Unified School District was awarded a three-year federal Teaching American History grant. We believe this award presents us with a wonderful and unique opportunity to promote the teaching and learning of American History in our district. You are invited to participate in the exciting professional development project sponsored by this award, "History Grows in Oakland: Teaching American History in an Urban School District."

Project funding supports work with fifty teachers. During its first year (2004-2005) close to fifty teachers and school librarians, from grades 5, 8, and 11, participated in the project's professional development program. *Participating teachers initially committed to work with the project during the three years of its implementation, but people retire and teaching assignments change. Because of this we are able to recruit a limited number of teachers for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years.*

Benefits of Joining this Project

We encourage eligible teachers to participate in this project and to join us in working towards these goals. Participants will have the opportunity to

- Work with colleagues from the same grade level, as well as colleagues from different grade levels.
- Hear from and work with nationally recognized historians and scholars.
- Collaborate with colleagues on the development, refinement, and analysis of classroom lessons by taking part in a program of "lesson study."
- Earn four units of UC Berkeley extension credit, paid for by the project, for each year of participation.
- Be enrolled as a member in the Organization of American Historians, paid for by the project, and receive the organization's "Magazine of History."
- *For new teachers, fulfill the California teacher credentialing standard on increasing core academic content knowledge.*
- Receive a stipend of \$1,000.
 - ❖ \$500 for attending all meetings and Lesson Study planning sessions for the 2005-2006 school year (approximately 20 after school hours).
 - ❖ \$500 for attending the summer institute.

Content Focus – During each of its three years the grant's work will be organized around a specific theme.

Year 1 (2004-2005) – Biography: Examinations of Significant Men and Women in American History

Year 2 (2005-2006)

- ***The Road to the Constitution (5th grade)***
- ***The Constitution: Interpretation and Conflict (8th and 11th grades)***

Year 3 (2006-2007)

- Enhancing Content for Critical Reading of Historical Fiction (5th grade)
- Foreign Policy: The History of America's Changing Role in World Affairs (8th and 11th grades)

Who Should Apply?

- Teachers who studied and were trained to teach American history, and teachers who studied and were trained to teach in other areas, i.e. English.
- Teachers who want to improve their repertoire of instructional strategies in history.
- Teachers who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of how to integrate reading, writing, and history into lessons that improve students' academic literacy skills.
- New teachers who desire time to collaborate with more experienced colleagues and to accelerate their professional development.
- Experienced teachers who know the value of participating in quality professional development focused on strong disciplinary content and the development of classroom lessons.

Commitment and Responsibilities

Teacher participants commit to:

- Meet after school once a month and on two teacher release days during the 2005-2006 school year. Meeting dates are

5th grade strand	Secondary strand (8th and 11th grades)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tuesday, October 18 (4-6 PM)▪ Thursday, November 17 (8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; grant pays for substitute)▪ Thursday, December 8 (4-6 PM)▪ Thursday, January 26 (4-6 PM)▪ Thursday, February 23 (4-6 PM)▪ Thursday, March 23 (4-6 PM)▪ Thursday, April 27 (4-6 PM)▪ Thursday, May 18 (8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; grant pays for substitute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tuesday October 18 (4-6 PM)▪ Tuesday, November 8 (8:30 – 3:15; grant pays for substitute)▪ Tuesday, December 6 (4-6 PM)▪ Tuesday, January 24 (4-6 PM)▪ Tuesday, February 21 (4-6 PM)▪ Tuesday, March 21 (4-6 PM)▪ Tuesday, April 25 (4-6 PM)▪ Tuesday, May 23 (8:30 AM – 3:15 PM; grant pays for substitute)

- Attend a one-week (5 days) summer institute at UC Berkeley. (June 26-30)
- Participate with other grant participants in "lesson study" - collaboration among teams of teachers to develop, refine, teach, and analyze American History lessons. Will require an additional release day in the spring. The grant will pay for substitute.
- Meet with lesson study team members 3 to 4 times during school year. Times to be decided by team members.

If you are interested in this professional development opportunity please complete the attached form and return to Stan Pesick, Harper Bldg., Rm. 6, Oakland Unified School District. You may also email your application to stan.pesick@ousd.k12.ca.us

If you have any questions or would look more information please call or contact us at the email addresses below. You may also visit our project website at www.teachingamericanhistory.us for a more detailed look at the project and its work. We look forward to hearing from and are excited to begin work on this project.

Stan, 879-8497, spesick@ousd.k12.ca.us, Shelly, 879-8447, shellyw@ousd.k12.ca.us

cc.

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