



Turning Points in American History
Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

In Attendance:

- Academic Educators: David Shiman, Janet Bossange
- History & Social Science Educators, gr 3-16: Brent Sclafani, Alison Levy, Adam Popkin, Colin Ducolon
- Local Education Agency Curriculum Coordinators: Stuart Weiss, Gwen Carmolli
- Librarians: Dian Pawlusiak, Claire Buckley
- Museum Educators: Tess Taylor, Victoria Hughes, A.J. MacDonald
- Champlain Valley Educator Development Center: Darlene Worth
- Partners: Scott Competelli, Lisa Italiano, Karen Petersen, Bonnie Douglas
- TAH Co-Directors: Elise Guyette, Scott McLaughlin
- TAH Program Coordinator: Megan Bridges

Not in Attendance:

- Academic Historians: Dan O'Neil, Susan Ouellette
- Partners: Cynthia Char, Geoff Burghardt

#1 Introductions - All

- See "In Attendance" above.

#2 MOU's & W9s – Scott

- Scott has MOUs for some people. He will hand those out. MOUs and W9s need to be turned into the South Burlington School District business office. Signed MOUs should go to Scott.
- Advisory Board members will receive an MOU for a 1 year term. Everyone is an independent contractor which safeguards the South Burlington School District. We hope people will continue on in year 2, etc.
- Invoice should include contact info, description of activity (like Advisory Board Meeting). Advisors receive \$100 per meeting attended. It is recommended that you fill out the invoices at each meeting and turn them in then.
- Cash flow will be reviewed in depth at the next Advisory Meeting.

#3 Evaluate Goals and Achievements – Elise

- Department of Education website contains a piece called “Transformation of Education in Vermont” from 2009. This document contains part of the vision for our project.
- We want to make students comfortable with big ideas and abstractions that repeat themselves throughout history.
- Goal is to help people analyze and synthesize new information by creating and writing their own interpretations.
- Program is ideal for Language Arts, History, and American Studies teachers.
- Flexible learning environments outside the classroom through summer trips and summer institutes (to Hubbardton and West Point, for example, this summer).
- Use inquiry and investigation as transformative practices
- Teach people how to read primary sources and interpret/use them
- All of these ideas and goals put us on the cutting edge of education

Major Goals

A. Increase Teacher Content Knowledge

- Help teachers who don't have a degree in history or social science through professional development grant
- Survey about teachers knowledge areas – freedom, justice & equality

B. Enhance Teacher Skills

- Aid in teaching in an engaging way to excite students
- Support for teachers on how to incorporate primary sources/artifacts in classroom

C. Promote Collaborative Culture

- Bring groups together to hear speakers and have small discussions.
- Encourage collaborative peer to peer professional development.

Four Prongs

1. Leadership Initiatives

- Internships w/ Museums – strengthen school/museum partnerships

2. Study Groups – Analyze Historical Literature

- Reading and discussing history
- Primary source study group

3. Field Studies

- Scholar-led seminars with small group discussions (Nov, Jan, April)

4. Museum Workshops

#4 Project Website

- Website has been indexed by google so is now easier to find
- You are never more than one click away from the home page
- Content for site is still being written
- “Accessibility” gives recommendations on browsing
- Home page has upcoming events
- All contact info and ability to email from browser is on homepage

About Us

- Contains Mission and Vision as educators
- Lists Advisors, Staff, Partners
- If you'd like contact info on the site, let us know. We will put it up in a way so spammers can't get to it.
- Pressroom – encourage peers to celebrate program and thank partners, teachers, recognize community
- FAQ – info about grant, grant proposal
- Latest News
- Working on a blog
- Annual report will be a public doc – due in Oct. each year
- Newsletter – to be produced a few times a year

Events & Programs

- Calendar – monthly, printable, links go to descriptions of events
- All Events – Lists for all year
- Can set up RSS feed for updates – we will be updating Facebook and Twitter
- Event Packages – can sign up for events in groups, this is recommended
- Would like teachers to attend multiple events and not just sign up for one
- Internships – description, registration forms, potentially start in January but probably the summer, collaborative effort between educator and museum, developing a list of potential internships
- Grants – opportunity for teachers to create their own professional development, mini-grants designed to do something new, online guidelines, forms to fill out, evaluated by Advisory Group before being awarded
- Forms – Generic forms, reimbursements for subs, etc.
- Teacher Leadership – juried by Advisory Committee (or a section of)
- Brochures – color copy on website

Resources

- Develop lesson plans, bring together materials to aid teachers
- Online Classroom
- Blocks of time – annotated bibliographies, website links, content/photographs

Ways to Help

- Funded by federal gov't – would like to have a pool of fund to provide opportunities outside the scope of the grant
- Job opportunities – need a librarian to help w/ annotated bibliographies

Links

- Generic – other TAH sites around the country

Other

- If you have changes for the website, email them to Scott

- Webmaster is with us through the whole program
- Header pictures will change and be appropriate for each year

Some General Recommendations/Information

- Consider stand alone events to spark interest in series
- Need to get the word out about the program – have been visiting schools and updating website
- Let us know if your school would be interested in a visit from Scott and Elise
- Elise did a podcast that will be on the website – it takes people through the brochure
- List of credit opportunities for teachers (college credit and recertification credit)
- Get student teachers interested\

#5 Management Plan - Elise

- The management of different events will be divided up between Scott & Elise
- Leadership Initiatives
- Scholar-led seminars
- Study Groups
- Field Studies
- Agenda for Advisory Meetings

#6 Budget – Scott

- Grant proposal was written for 5 years
- Funded for 3 and will be reviewed for funding for final 2 years
- More will be spent in year 1 on set and equipment
- Line Item #1 is for Personnel – Scott, Elise & Megan
- Line Item #3 is for Travel Expense – Elise and Cindy Char (evaluator) will go to a DC conference
- Line Item #4 is for Equipment (camera, printer, projector, etc)
- Line Item #5 is for Supplies (food, resources for teachers, etc.)
- Line Item #6 is for Contractual – advisory members, partners, evaluators
- Line Item #8 is for Other – mini-grant funding, teacher stipends, etc.
- Line Item #11 is for Training Stipends – 40 and 60 hr participants will be eligible. They have to produce something for program (lesson plan, research, etc.)
- Review budget in depth at next meeting

Other Recommendations

- Look for support from school districts for these programs – districts aren't doing content in their professional development programs, this should be highlighted.
- Curriculum coordinators work with superintendents around professional development – could be cost effective for schools to send teachers to TAH programs because cost of subs is covered and programs are free – graduate credit is offered at a reduced rate
- Send blurbs to school districts to send out
- Try to get it in the DOE Field Memo (contact is Jill Remick)
- Get info in superintendent's group (Chair is Elaine Pickney)

Other ideas: VPA, attend 15 minutes of department content meetings, bring sign up sheets to those meetings so teachers can sign up on the spot

- Need to figure out how to get the word out to elementary school teachers who don't necessarily see themselves as content teachers
- Suggestion to connect program to literacy as much as possible
- Run a mini workshop in an elementary school
- Connect with Social Studies committees in schools
- Target librarians – put on listserv

#7 Evaluation – Elise

- Cindy Char is our outside evaluator
- Federal grant is only interested in people who are participating 40 hours (considered part time) or more.
- Answer key research questions (see handout)
- Working on survey/pre-test which will contain content questions from AP, NAT, Regents tests as well as pedagogy questions
- Retest at year end
- Pre and Post test will be received by Char Associates only
- Techniques for gathering information include: history content knowledge, participant attendance records, observation, focus groups, feed back forms, and reflective essays.

#8 Recommended Changes – Scott

- Please review materials and send us any comments you have regarding content
- Need Advisory Group to help guide program
- We are a pilot project in a new area so any help you can provide please let us know