



FREEDOM PROJECT

ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS #205

Teaching American History Grant

- 2nd TAH Grant
- Fall of 2008 through Spring of 2013
- Funding from the US Dept. of Education
- \$1.6 million
- For teachers of US history*
- One-year applications available

Purpose of Freedom Project

- To increase teacher content knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of US history through professional development
- To provide mentoring for teachers new to the subject or grade level
- To provide the expertise of an Historian-in-Residence to work with teachers on specific US history lessons
- To raise student achievement

Freedom Project's Focus



- 15 major eras of US history (following slide)
- 5 major threads:
 - Women, African-Americans, Hispanics
 - Important historical events and key figures
 - Places in the News
 - The Rockford Connection
 - Economic Impact

15 Eras of US History

Year One:

- Exploration and Colonization: Three Worlds Collide
- Becoming America
- Reconstruction and Reform
- The Cold War

Year Two:

- The Living Constitution
- The American Revolution: Context and Culture
- Immigration: Then and Now
- Women and the Industrial Revolution
- Good Times and Bad

Year Three:

- Westward Expansion
- Slavery and the Civil War
- The Progressives

15 Eras (cont.)

Year Three (cont.):

- Documents of Democracy

Year Four:

- The Corps of Discovery
- The Jacksonian Era
- The New Deal
- World War II

Year Five:

- Civil Rights for All
- The Vietnam Era
- Contemporary United States

Requirements for Applicants for Freedom Project Scholars (Option A)

- Be a teacher in District #205 who teaches US history* (grades 5, 7, 8, and high school)
- Complete the FP Application and submit by August 30th
- Attend a specified number of symposia, focus groups, and other in-service offerings of professional development
- Work with the Historian-in-Residence

Requirements (cont.)

- Utilize WebLessons and other online resources for teaching US history
- Assess students in history content using assessments created by grant evaluator
- Take several informal assessments
- Submit six (6) lesson plans based on eras studied
- Read required books and articles

REWARDS!

- Priority status for attending each symposium and in-service workshop
- Materials, books, and other resources necessary for professional development
- Opportunity to attend history conferences
- Opportunity for field study travel in June
- Sessions with Historian-in-Residence
- Materials for professional history library

REWARDS! (cont.)

- \$1000. paid to each teacher who submits six (6) well-written lesson plans, one every six weeks, based on grant themes
- Weblessons! Membership for online history resources
- Option of taking Summer Field Study Travel for graduate credit through Aurora University (tuition covered by grant)

Freedom Project Participants (Option B)

- Teachers do not go through application process **but** are able to register for any and all symposiums and workshops offered through the grant
- Allowed to register/attend WebLessons workshop in September
- No required lesson plans
- May request a session with the Historian-in-Residence for one-on-one planning
- Not eligible for end of year field study travel.

Schedule of Events for '09-'10

- July 1st-2nd “Legacy of Lincoln” Field Study Trip to Springfield
- August 3, 4, 5 – Literacy Workshops at NIU Rockford
- August 13-14—Freedom Project Summer Institute with Jonathan Chu and Robert Johnston
- August 19th—Teaching History with Digital Primary Resources



Old State Capitol – Springfield

Schedule of Events (cont.)



Abigail Adams' biographer Edith Gelles will be here Nov. 7th along with keynote speaker and author Carol Berkin.

- Fri., Sept. 11th and Sat., Sept. 12th – “The Living Constitution” at NIU Rockford (Opening symposium)
- Sat., Oct. 24th Special Workshop on “The Culture of Islam” conducted by Georgetown University’s Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at NIU Rockford
- Sat., Nov. 7th “The American Revolution: Context and Culture” at NIU Rockford

Schedule of Events (cont.)

- Sat., January 23rd

“Immigration: Then and Now”

Speakers: Roger Daniels,
David Reimers, Matt Garcia

- Sat., March 27th

“Good Times and Bad: The Roaring '20's/
Great Depression”

Speakers: Alan Brinkley, Taylor Atkins

- Sat., April 24th

“Industrialization and the Women's Movement”

Speakers: Sylvia Cook, JD Bowers



Technology Session for Weblessons

- Two-hour workshop for teachers who wish to utilize **Weblessons**, the online history resource, for teaching US history
- Date TBA for late September, 2009
- Teachers do not have to commit to Plan A of the Freedom Project but must commit to using **Weblessons** in their classes and therefore must have computer access for students as well as themselves.

Schedule of Events (cont.)



TBA: Field Study Travel
in June, 2010 to --

Boston, Lowell, and
Seneca Falls for
Teachers enrolled
as the Freedom
Project “Scholars”



Schedule of Events (cont.)

- August, 2010

Trip to Springfield

- Visit ALP Museum
- Tour Historic Landmarks
- Workshop at ALP Library
- Visit New Salem
- Overnight at Springfield Hilton

HISTORIAN-IN-RESIDENCE

- Dr. JD Bowers, Associate Professor of History at NIU
- 2 days a week in Rockford to work with teachers
- Sessions tailored to meet teacher's needs
- Provides resource materials, lesson suggestions, document acquisition assistance, support.

FAQ's

- Do I have to attend all of the grant activities to participate in ***Freedom Project***?
- Do I have to teach 5th, 7th, 8th grade or high school US history in order to be eligible for ***Freedom Project*** events?
- How will teachers be selected for the Field Study Travel in June?
- What are my responsibilities if I apply for participation in ***Freedom Project***?
- Do I have to submit six lesson plans in order to earn the \$1000 stipend?

Other Questions?

Steps to follow:

- To become a Freedom Project Scholar (Option A), complete the Application
- Submit Completed Application by August 30th!
- To become a Freedom Project Participant (Option B), register for selected upcoming events
- Enjoy the materials, speakers, and trips that are planned for this year!