



DOE Social Studies newsletter January 17, 2019

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The Need for Civics Education

Chief Justice Roberts Highlights Need for Civics

In his annual [Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary](#), Chief Justice Roberts focused on the need for better civic education. He pointed to the work of two NCSS partners, [iCivics](#) and the [National Constitution Center](#), as effective civic learning partners.

James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation Education Opportunity

The following are remarks on the program by government teacher, Stephanie Kaufman from Sturgis. The James Madison Fellowship chooses one applicant per state per year. The Fellowship pays \$24,000 toward a Master's degree with an emphasis on the Constitution. Stephanie is doing her graduate program through Ashland University in Ohio in a program called MAHG, which is a Master of Arts in American History and Government. With the Madison Fellowship, there is a four week summer program that all fellows attend at Georgetown University. The six-credit course at Georgetown that all of the Madison fellows take is called the Foundations of American Constitutionalism. Kaufman described the description of the program she attended in Washington, D.C during the summer of 2018. Kaufman described the fellowship as "The professional experience of a lifetime".

Participants learned about the foundations of American Constitutionalism including classical republicanism, and the influence of Protestantism on the American Revolution. Crucial readings from the time, federal court simulations, and question/answer sessions also took place. People from well-known organizations and government offices spoke: the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, expert historians, professors, and authors, former judges and law officials. The group also toured several landmarks around Washington, D.C that related to the materials they were learning about. Kaufman noted that one of the most memorable aspects of the experience included connecting with educators dedicated to furthering their education for the benefit of social studies and civics education.

Visit www.jamesmadison.gov for more information on this valuable experience. Applications are due March 1, 2020.

Native American Education

WoLakota: <https://www.wolakotaproject.org/>

OSEUS unpacked standards link (located under the content standards tab): <https://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/ssose.aspx>

Juliana Taken Alive, Director of Indian Education: juliana.takenalive@state.sd.us

Keeping Students Informed About Current, Troubling Events: Iran and U.S. Relations

The article, "How to Talk to Your Kids About the Situation With Iran" (<https://time.com/5760199/how-to-talk-kids-iran-soleimani/>), offers suggestions for talking to students at home about the recent events between Iran and the United States. These suggestions can also relay into the classroom setting and provide opportunities for meaningful discussions with students.

Another article, "The Past is Present: Strategies for Bringing Current Events into the Social Studies Classroom," explains the strong impact of including current events into social studies classes. This article also offers strategies to accomplish this (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/29/learning/lesson-plans/the-past-is-present-strategies-for-bringing-current-events-into-the-social-studies-classroom.html>).

Educating For Democracy Project

A webinar, led by Louise Dube, director of iCivics, and Peter Levine, associate dean and professor at Tufts University, was held on January 6, 2020 regarding the introduction and current progress of the Educating for Democracy Project. This 15 month project, which started on October 1, 2019, stemmed from the national grant awarded to iCivics from the NEH and Department of Education for \$650,000 this past November (<https://www.neh.gov/news/neh-and-department-education-award-650000-icivics>).

This project is designed to serve as a collaboration between CiviXNow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, CIRCLE, Arizona State University school of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, and Tufts University Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life. The project goal is to integrate history and civics education to help K-12 students feel connected to their civic learning experience through the following steps: giving K-12 students a strong sense of ownership to the democracy, prioritizing important content, integrating American history and civics education, reducing the gap between civics research and practice, telling the untold stories in American history, and integrating both the gory and glory historical aspects of our country.

Those involved in the project want to focus on what to teach about American constitutional democracy through past failures, current challenges, and happenings for current democracy. This will be accomplished by building on the C3 framework and other past efforts to put more attention on the following efforts: giving more specific details to the plan, putting more focus on content (what to teach and how to teach it), bringing history and civics together, and researching how U.S. government and U.S. history classes are understood and studied in K-12 settings versus the college setting (this will include examining the gaps between the two and if the gaps are necessary).

There are concerns present by educators around the nation regarding the focus of inquiry and how the other social studies disciplines (such as geography, economics, world/ancient history) will fit into the plan. Ensuring the proper discourse for teaching civic engagement and the proper pedagogy will be found in later discussions. The timeline for this project is moving fast. More questions will be answered in later webinars and interviews they do.

Teaching Economics Through the Primary Sources of America's First Bank

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has released educational resources for economics using primary sources from America's first bank. The resource includes primary document lists, essential questions, teacher guides, and more that can be mixed and matched with other present economics resources or resources specific to one's state. For more information, use the following link:

<https://hsp.org/education/unit-plans/economics-through-the-long-history-of-america%e2%80%99s-first-bank>

Contact Information

I would love to hear from you with any resources or questions you have!

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Please invite your fellow teachers to subscribe to the Social Studies Listserv! :)

<https://www.k12.sd.us/MailingList/DOESocialStudies>

Coming Events and Professional Development Opportunities

- **SD Education Conference**---SAVE THE DATE May 27-28, 2020
- **Applications for the White House History Institute open.**

This 5 day professional development opportunity explores the people and history of the White House and how those concepts can be incorporated into any age classroom. As advertised on the website, "The Institute features discussions with historians, local site visits, inquiry-based learning activities, special speakers, exclusive access to resources, and networking with fellow educators from across the country." There are two sessions available this summer: July 6-10 and July 13-17. After the participant pays the \$50 registration fee, lodging and meals are provided, and a stipend is offered to offset travel costs. To be considered, visit <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/white-house-history-teacher-institute>. Here, you will find the application and process. **Applications are due by 11:59pm on February 1, 2020.**

- **Professional Development opportunity in Heart Mountain, Wyoming featuring Japanese Internment camps in the U.S.** More information located: <https://sites.google.com/heartmountain.org/hmwfworkshops/home>.
- **American Bar Association and Federal Judicial Center:**

The theme this year is Federal Trials and Great Debates in U.S. History. This professional development opportunity is designed especially for teachers of U.S. History, Government, Civics, and Law, the Federal Trials and Great Debates Summer Institute deepens participants' knowledge of the federal judiciary and of the role the federal courts have played in key public controversies that have defined our constitutional and other legal rights. Lodging is provided, travel is reimbursed, and most meals are provided, leaving minimal cost to educators. The institute takes place in Washington, D.C. from June 21-26. **Application deadline is March 2, 2020.** Institute agenda and application information is available at: <https://bit.ly/2FV9d8d>

SD Cultural Heritage Center

Historical Society Website: <https://history.sd.gov/default.aspx>

- **Women's Suffrage Exhibit continues through November 2020.**

***SD Women's History Collection, visit:** <https://history.sd.gov/archives/womenshistory.aspx>

***Other links:** <https://archives.gov/women> **and** <https://docsteach.org/topics/women>

- **February Museum Activity Day is February 2 from 1-4pm**

***This family event features Valentine's Day crafts and activities, along with opportunities for participants to see featured exhibits such as exhibits "Silent Silos: South Dakota's Missile Field" and "The Right Is Ours': Women Win the Vote." "Silent Silos" traces the development of the Cold War-era missile field in South Dakota. "The Right is Ours" provides an overview of the suffrage movement to give women the right to vote in South Dakota and the United States. Both exhibits include photos, text, and hands-on activities.**

- **Late 1800s-early 1900s Warner, Mobridge, and DeSmet to be digitized**

***As noted in this month's press release, "The State Historical Society-Archives was awarded a third round of grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue digitizing historical newspapers in September 2018. The project is part of Chronicling America, a Library of Congress initiative to develop an online database of select historical newspapers from around the United States. As part of the grant, the State Historical Society-Archives will digitize approximately 100 rolls of microfilmed newspapers pre-dating 1924 over two years."**

***More information and progress of this project can be found at: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/south%20dakota/>**

"OUR GREATEST
NATURAL RESOURCE
IS THE MINDS
OF OUR CHILDREN."
WALTER ELIAS DISNEY