

Dear Colleague:

We very much appreciate your interest in our Summer NEH Landmarks of American History Workshop, *Landmarks of American Democracy: From Freedom Summer to the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike*. The workshop will be held on the Jackson State University and Rhodes College campuses from June 15 – 21 and repeated June 22 - 28, 2008. We are delighted to invite 25 community college faculty to each workshop to join us in exploring the rich history of the Southern Civil Rights Movement. The one-week workshops will feature essential readings in American political history, presentations by distinguished lecturers /teachers/Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, and field trips to sites in Jackson, Mississippi; the Mississippi Delta communities of Greenwood, Ruleville, and Clarksdale; and Memphis, Tennessee.

The workshop's primary goal is to help community college educators gain a more comprehensive understanding of the landmarks, people, and events that provided critical momentum for the success of the Southern Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Specifically, the workshop will focus on the events of the Summer Project of 1964—"Freedom Summer," and how these events set the stage for the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike in 1968. Within this context, the workshop will expose participants to methodologies for identifying, researching, and interpreting historical sites—those that have received formal recognition such as the Lorraine Hotel, now home to the National Civil Rights Museum, and the Masonic Temple in Jackson, MS, as well as those that are lesser known such as Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, MS and the home of Aaron E. Henry in Clarksdale, MS. The workshop's content is readily adaptable into a unit of study on the Southern Civil Rights Movement from 1964 - 1968 in a typical introductory American History survey course.

During the workshop, visiting scholars will discuss specific content areas and describe how they obtain primary documents and material resources. The workshop also includes several oral history panels featuring individuals who participated in various aspects of the Civil Rights Movement. Guided field trips will give workshop attendees first-hand knowledge of a variety of landmark sites, and participant small group work will focus on integrating this new knowledge into existing American History course curricula. We are confident that workshop participants will leave Mississippi and Memphis with a greater understanding and appreciation of the places and people that helped expand citizenship and democracy in America.

Texts and Contexts

What animates the workshop is the story of struggle, a story that tells how uncommon courage was summoned in the face of institutional resistance, lawlessness, and public opinion in opposition to the "rights" movement. Three texts are central to the foundation of the workshop. In order to have the information in these readings as a common background, we ask all participants to have read the following three texts before the start of the workshop. We know faculty are often pressed for time at the end of the academic year, and we therefore encourage you, if you intend to apply, to start reading as soon as possible. We ask that you purchase and read the following books: *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in America* by John Dittmer; *Southern Labor and Black Civil Rights: Organizing Memphis Workers* by Michael Honey; and *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle* by Charles Payne.

These three authors will join us for portions of the workshop. Dr. John Dittmer, who won the Bancroft Prize for his book *Local People*, will examine the NAACP's role in Mississippi and the impact of community organizing in Freedom Summer. Dr. Charles Payne, author of several books on the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi, will lecture on and lead a discussion about the Freedom Vote. Dr. Michael Honey, whose book deals with labor and civil rights in Memphis, will lecture on the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike during our field trip to that historic city.

We will supplement these three texts with music and primary historical documents designed to enhance your understanding of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1903, W.E.B. DuBois wrote his masterpiece, *The Souls of Black Folk*. To begin each chapter, and scattered throughout the text, he used music and lyrics to understand the souls of his people. Spirituals, he wrote, are the "articulate messages of the slaves to the world." During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, freedom songs played a critical role in the recruitment and retention of the activists. In this spirit, each workshop session will begin with a musical selection. We will enjoy the African American musical tradition, from spirituals to soul and beyond, in each of our meetings together.

Another primary source we feature is the visual record of the Civil Rights Movement. We will make use of clips from the many excellent documentaries available on the black experience, as well as a display of photographs of the landmarks we will tour during field trips. Movement activists will join us for oral history sessions, sharing their experiences and their impressions of the impact of various historical events. We also will take field trips to important landmarks where we will meet with the local people who made the Civil Rights Movement a success. These field trips lend important context to the overall objectives of the workshop. By combining readings with oral, visual, and experiential learning, we strive to create a context that promotes community building and deeper understanding.

Housing, Travel, and Stipend Payments

The workshop begins in Jackson, Mississippi. Midweek, we will take a field trip through the Mississippi Delta en route to Memphis, Tennessee, where the workshop will eventually conclude. While in Jackson, all workshop participants are encouraged to live in Campbell College Suites Dormitory, located on the campus of Jackson State University (JSU). The dormitory was built two years ago and is a modern air-conditioned structure. It is located in the center of campus and is close to the new dining hall, the H.T. Sampson Library (in which participants will have access to computer labs and internet access), the Jacob L. Reddix Campus Union, and the Dollye M.E. Robinson School of Liberal Arts Building (where most of our sessions will meet). While in Memphis, participants will be housed in a comparable dormitory on the Rhodes College campus. The single room rate is \$192.00 per week for housing at both Jackson State and Rhodes College. Each room comes equipped with a refrigerator and microwave oven. Laundry facilities are available on the premises.

As a visiting scholar on campus you will be afforded full library and recreational privileges. In addition to library privileges, you will have access to the Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center and the Hamer Institute Reading Room. Recreational facilities include tennis courts, an indoor swimming pool, and basketball courts. Meals may be purchased in the B.F. Roberts Dining Hall. The dining hall is located one block from the DuBois Honors Dormitory. Other local dining opportunities are available.

Community college faculty selected to participate in the workshop each will receive a stipend of \$500.00. Stipends are intended to help cover the cost of books, housing, ordinary living expenses, and travel expenses to and from Jackson, Mississippi. Stipends are taxable. Travel supplements for those traveling long distances will be available and will be allocated after all participants have submitted their travel itineraries. (In accordance with NEH program guidelines, neither stipends nor travel supplements may be paid in advance). Finally, participants may opt to receive graduate credit through Jackson State University. Participants desiring graduate credit must enroll in the JSU Graduate School and pay tuition for 1 credit hour (\$250 in 2006). Continuing education credit is also available for a nominal fee, payable following completion of the workshop. If you are interested in receiving graduate or continuing education credit, please let us know soon after your acceptance.

Jackson State University is a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) located on a scenic 150-acre tract situated one mile west of downtown Jackson. JSU is easily accessible from U.S. Highways 80, 49 and 51 and Interstates 20, 220, and 55. The city of Jackson is the state capital and is the home of Mississippi's most important business, financial, governmental, and cultural institutions. By automobile, Jackson is two and one half hours north of New Orleans, three hours south of Memphis, two and one half hours west of Birmingham, 45 minutes from historic Vicksburg, and one and one half hour from historic Natchez. JSU, founded in 1877, has a mission that requires particular sensitivity to the political, social, economic, and environmental conditions under which civic culture emerges and is sustained. Through its more than 95 Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D. degree programs, JSU plays a vital role in forging the triad of teaching, research, and service throughout the local community, state, and nation. Its reach in the social sciences and the humanities is international in scope. The university's total enrollment (undergraduate and graduate) is 8,700.

Rhodes College will join JSU as a host to the workshop by housing participants in its dormitories three of the six days for each week. Founded in 1848, Rhodes College is a private, highly selective liberal arts institution with a national reputation for academic excellence. Maintaining one of the largest investments per student (\$261,000) in the nation, Rhodes is ranked as a tier one college by the *U.S. News and World Report's* evaluation of colleges and universities. Rhodes College has as its vision to graduate students with a lifelong passion for learning, a compassion for others, and the ability to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in

their communities and the world. As one of the very few small colleges of its quality located in a major metropolitan area, Rhodes has a history and commitment to service in the community; over 80 percent of students engage in some type of service in connection to the larger community.

Expectations and Intended Outcomes

Focusing on the education of an informed citizen through a pedagogy centered on student participation, this workshop will allow community college faculty to experience and communicate the power, possibilities, and contradictions inherent in a democratic society. The idea of democracy as an unfinished enterprise is highlighted throughout the workshop, leaving you, as a citizen and an educator, with the knowledge to carry forth the legacy of scholarship and civic engagement spawned by scholars and those who fought for freedom.

The growing disaffection among young people of voting age can be challenged as teachers better understand how such “ordinary” citizens as Ella Baker, C. Billy Kyles, Obie Clark, Fannie Lou Hamer, Reverend James Lawson, E.W. Steptoe, Susie Ruffin, Bill Lucy, Amzie Moore, Annie Devine, Reverend Ben Hooks, and Bob Moses changed the course and meaning of democracy in the United States. The workshop will encourage you to transform your curriculum to highlight how the Civil Rights Movement expanded the meaning and practice of citizenship and democracy in the United States. During the course of the workshop, we will explore the conditions under which citizens make history by being active rather than passive, and well-informed rather than ill-informed sovereigns of the nation. The workshop’s careful and thoughtful readings compel inquiry rather than dogma. The process of inquiry will show that history has been made on the turn rows in the cotton fields and on the steps of the courthouse—as well as in the homes of the powerful—by private acts of courage on the part of the powerless.

The scheduled field trips will allow you to experience the locations about which you have read and meet many of the individuals who made the history you are teaching. In every community there are people who, through their example of active citizenship and commitment to democracy, can serve as role models to new generations of students. Hamer Institute staff, faculty, and friends know hundreds of former Civil Rights activists throughout the nation, and we will happily assist workshop alumni in finding individuals near their schools who would be willing to serve as resource persons.

Faculty

Most of the core faculty of the workshop first met at the NEH Summer Institute for university professors on “Teaching the History of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, 1865-1965,” held at Harvard University’s W.E.B. DuBois Institute in 1997. Since that time, as the Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy, we have conducted workshops and longer summer seminars annually for K-12 schoolteachers. While we come from different disciplinary backgrounds and universities, we are all experienced teachers, with scholarly research and teaching interests that complement one another. Dr. Leslie B. McLemore is the former Dean of the Graduate School and founding chair of the Department of Political Science at Jackson State University, and currently serves as Professor of Political Science. Dr. McLemore writes on Black Politics and has co-authored several articles with his colleague Dr. Mary D. Coleman. Dr. Coleman, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor in the Department of Political Science, currently writes on comparative judicial systems and rural poverty. Dr. Michelle D. Deardorff, Associate Professor of Political Science at Jackson State University, writes on the federal courts’ impact on issues of racial and gender equality. Dr. Jeffrey D. Kolnick, Associate Professor of History at Southwest Minnesota State University, teaches and researches in the area of labor history. Dr. Tiyi Morris is an Assistant Professor of African-American and African Studies at Ohio State University in Newark. Dr. Morris has been affiliated with the Hamer Institute of the past three years. The five of us have enjoyed working closely together for the last ten years. Joining us from Rhodes College will be Dr. Charles W. McKinney, Jr., who is an Assistant Professor of History. During the workshop’s small group sessions, most of these faculty members will help participants discover innovative ways to convey the historical material presented in the workshops to their students at their home institutions.

Application Procedures

We encourage community college faculty in the humanities, social sciences, and behavioral sciences, or anyone whose teaching could benefit from an immersion in the historical experience of the Civil Rights Movement in the American South, to apply for the workshop. **Application guidelines and instructions are included on pages 5 and**

6 of this document. Adjunct and part-time lecturers as well as full-time faculty are eligible to apply. Applicants must be willing to commit to one week of intense intellectual work. We will base participant selection on each applicant's interest in, and preparedness for, the various teaching and learning experiences provided by the workshop. We are committed to assembling a diverse and exciting group of participants for this national program.

Please give special thought to the one-page application essay. As stipulated in the instructions, the essay should address your professional background and interest in the Southern Civil Rights Movement. Explain how your special perspectives, skills, and experiences have equipped you to contribute to the workshop. Describe what you hope to accomplish by participating and how the workshop will likely relate to your future professional responsibilities.

Once the application deadline has passed, we will convene a selection committee composed of core faculty and scholars to evaluate your application. Your completed application materials should be postmarked no later than March 15, 2008. A hard copy should be sent to us at the address listed below. Successful applicants will receive additional logistical information about the workshop with their official selection notification.

Please contact us at your convenience if you have any further questions or concerns. We look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely,

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NEH LANDMARKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE: WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops are offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide community college faculty with the opportunity to engage in intensive study and discussion of important topics and issues in American history and culture, while providing them with direct experiences in the interpretation of significant historical sites and the use of archival and other primary historical evidence. Prior to completing an application, please review the enclosed letter from the project director (or letter downloaded from the director's website, if available) and consider carefully what is expected in terms of residence and attendance, reading and writing requirements, and participation in the work of the project.

Landmarks Workshops will allow 25 teachers at a time to collaborate with core faculty and visiting scholars. The Workshops are designed to present the best available scholarship on a specific landmark or related cluster of landmarks, while enabling participants to gain a sense of the importance of historical places, to make connections between the Workshop content and what they teach, and to develop materials for their classrooms and, if applicable, for their research interests.

ELIGIBILITY

These projects are designed for faculty members at American community colleges. Adjunct and part-time lecturers as well as full-time faculty are eligible to apply. An applicant need not have an advanced degree in order to qualify. Candidates for degrees are only eligible to apply if they are employed by an institution other than the one at which they are degree candidates and if their participation is intended to enhance their teaching of American undergraduates. Degree candidates can not use their participation in an NEH Landmarks project to meet a degree requirement, including work on masters' theses or doctoral dissertations. Applicants must be United States citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have been residing in the United States or its territories for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. Foreign nationals teaching outside the U.S. are not eligible to apply. Applicants must complete the NEH application cover sheet and provide all of the information requested below to be considered eligible. Individuals may not apply to study with a director of a Landmarks project who is a current colleague or a family member. Individuals may not apply to participate in a Workshop given by the same director on the same topic in which they have previously participated; in other words, they should not apply to attend the same Workshop twice. Preference will be given to those who are new to the program.

Applicants must complete the NEH application cover sheet and provide all of the information requested below to be considered eligible. **An individual may apply to and participate in no more than two Landmarks projects.**

SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee will read and evaluate all properly completed applications. The committee will consist of the project director and two other scholars in the field; at least one will be a community college faculty member or administrator. Special consideration is given to the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally and personally from the Workshop experience. It is important, therefore, to address each of the following factors in preparing the application essay:

- your professional background and interest in the subject of the Workshop;
- your special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the Workshop; and
- how the experience would enhance your teaching and/or research.

STIPEND, TENURE, AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Community College faculty selected to participate will receive a stipend of \$500 at the end of the residential Workshop session. Stipends are intended to **help** cover ordinary living expenses, books, and travel expenses to and from the Workshop location. Travel supplements will be available, but will be allocated on a case-by-case basis after the workshop session is over. Stipends and travel supplements are taxable.

Workshop participants are required to attend all scheduled meetings and to engage fully in all project activities. Participants who do not complete the full tenure of the project will receive a reduced stipend.

Participants will provide NEH with an assessment of their Workshop experience, especially in terms of its value to their personal and professional development. You will be asked to provide a confidential evaluation at the close of the Workshop.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This application packet should contain a letter from the project director describing in detail the content of the Workshop, the institutional setting, what is expected of participants, and specific provisions for lodging and subsistence. In some cases, directors have websites for their projects and the information letter may be downloaded from their website. **All application materials should be sent to the project director at the address listed on the program poster. Sending application materials and reference letters to the Endowment will result in delay.** Please indicate on the application cover sheet your first and second choices of Workshop dates.

CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

A completed application consists of **three** copies of the following **collated** items:

- the completed application cover sheet,
- a résumé,
- an application essay (one to two double-spaced pages) as outlined below.

In addition, it must include one letter of recommendation as described below.

The Application Cover Sheet

The application cover sheet must be filled out on line at this address:

<http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/> Please fill it out on line as directed by the prompts. **When you are finished, be sure to click on the “submit” button.** Print out the cover sheet and add it to your application package. At that point you will be asked if you want to apply to another workshop. If you do, follow the prompts and select another workshop and then print out the cover sheet for that workshop.

Résumé

Please include a current c.v. or résumé.

The Application Essay

The application essay should be one to two double-spaced pages. The essay should address your professional background and interest in the subject of the Workshop; your special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the Workshop; and how the experience would enhance your teaching and/or research.

Reference Letter

Applicants should provide a letter of recommendation from their department chair/division head or another professional reference. It is helpful for referees to read a copy of the description of the project sent by the director and the application essay. Please ask your referee to sign his/her name across the seal on the back of the envelope containing the letter, and enclose the letter with your application.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Completed applications should be submitted **to the project director** and should be **postmarked no later than March 17, 2008**.

Successful applicants will be notified of their selection by April 16, 2008, and they will have until April 23, 2008 to accept or decline the offer. Applicants who will not be home during the notification period should provide an address and phone number where they can be reached. No information concerning the status of an application will be available prior to the official notification period.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Endowment programs do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age. For further information, write to NEH Equal Opportunity Officer, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. TDD: 202/606-8282 (this is a special telephone device for the Deaf).