

Mountain West Center for Regional Studies

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Ione Bennion Teachers' Workshop for the Perpetuation of Democratic Principles

The Mountain West Center for Regional Studies at USU is seeking proposals for the 2019 Bennion Teachers' Workshop, a five-day summer workshop on democratic principles for teachers (K-12 & post-secondary). Proposed workshops should provide an atmosphere and the educational resources to explore the concepts upon which democracy is built, the conditions under which it flourishes, and the dangers to its existence. Interpretation of this mission is broad, and many humanities and social science topics may qualify. We encourage proposals with a global perspective (e.g. emerging democracies and the lessons they offer on democratic principles and processes, and the role of the educational system in these transitions) and those with a creative/innovative approach to the teaching of democracy.

In the past, successful workshop proposals have focused on timely and interdisciplinary topics. For instance, we would welcome proposals that explore democratic principles at work within subjects such as the centennial of women's suffrage, immigration and refugee experience, challenges of journalism in a "post-truth"/ "grassroots media" era, environmental issues, history of voting, race and ethnicity in graphic novels, folklore, or other media— just to name a few potential topics.

The workshop is held in June on the USU Logan campus and is attended by post-secondary and in-service K-12 teachers, as well as a limited number of pre-service teachers from throughout Utah and the Intermountain West. Successful workshop topics are applicable for this range of participants. The workshop should be high in content to provide teachers with a solid background in the subject matter and knowledgeable guidance in the development of appropriate lesson plans for use in the classroom. Bennion is unique in that it aims to connect participants with notable visiting scholars working on related subject matter. If appropriate, a keynote address by the workshop's visiting speaker can be arranged (free and open to the public).

The workshop is directed by USU faculty or faculty teams who have proposed a topic and outlined a plan for the workshop. Proposals should include visiting speakers, hands-on experiences, lesson plans, and time for discussion and interaction among students and faculty. A good variety of activities is important. Workshop directors should plan to be onsite throughout the workshop and take an active role in the interactions with presenters and students.

The Mountain West Center provides support for the workshop in the following areas:

- assistance with the production and distribution of the brochure
- travel arrangements for guest speakers
- coordination of all food service for the week
- student enrollment processing
- communication with participants regarding lodging, parking, meals, and registration
- administration of scholarships for participants (travel and need-based)

- administration of other financial aspects of the workshop
- facilitation of any logistical needs during the workshop

Past topics have included: “Revolution, Representation, Propaganda: Democracy in the 18th Century Atlantic” (2018); “Literature of Protest: Civil Rights, Democracy, Social Justice” (2017); “Democracy and the Future of American Capitalism” (2016) “Democracy in Asia: A Universal or American System?” (2015); “Journalism as a Tool for Education and Education as the Key to Sustaining Journalism” (2014); “Developing Students into Collaborative Citizens: Learning Civil Discourse and Democratic Decision-Making” (2013); and “The Open Space of Democracy: How Place Writing Transforms Classrooms, Communities, and the World” (2012). ***Copies of brochures from these workshops are available on request at the Mountain West Center, Main 339.***

Deadline for Proposals: Monday, November 12, 2018, at 5:00 pm.

How to Apply:

Interested individuals will need to schedule a consultation with the MWC Director prior to October 26. The sooner the better! After meeting with the director, faculty applying for funding will write a proposal narrative and budget for the workshop. The workshop will need to be held during one week in June 2019 on the USU campus (exact dates to be determined). Effective communication and involvement with workshop participants are key considerations.

1) *Narrative.* The proposal narrative should be approximately 5 single-spaced pages and include:

- a title for the workshop and name(s) of the director(s)
- learning objectives
- detailed plans for each of the five days and any pre- and post-activities or assignments
- names of proposed speakers and a brief description of what contribution each speaker will make to the workshop. *Please provide contact information and brief CVs for speakers as an addendum to the proposal.*
- a publicity and marketing plan. Who do you want to attend and how will you attract them? While the project director assumes primary responsibility for publicity and generating lists for mailing, the Mountain West Center staff will assist in this area and provide mailing lists as well.
- preferred number of students and the group(s) of teachers/students you will be targeting for your workshop (e.g., Social Science middle and high school teachers). Generally, workshop directors should plan on an enrollment of about 20 participants.

2) *Budget.* Faculty members interested in submitting a proposal are encouraged to work with the MWC Director and MWC Senior Program Assistant Barbara Warnes (mwc@usu.edu) in the Mountain West Center to develop the proposal budget. All costs should be itemized and realistic, and may include:

- a fee for the director (standard amount set by MWC; contact us). May be split between co-directors, depending on nature of the planned activities and projected follow-up.*
- fees/honoraria and travel expenses for visiting speakers
- costs of teaching assistants, graduate assistants, or staff assistants, if needed

- field trip expenses (if applicable): university transportation, entrance/access fees, etc.
- materials costs
- food costs (breaks, lunches, etc.)*
- publicity costs (printing, mailing, phone, including designing, printing and mailing the Bennion brochure, etc.)*
- technological costs
- copying and postage as needed
- teacher scholarships: travel and need-based, up to \$500 each, for up to eight full awards
- expected needs for technical services, food services, travel, etc.

* The MWC director and senior program assistant can provide guidelines for limits and estimating expenses in these categories, based on previous years' costs.

3) Budget Narrative.

- 1 page written justification/clarification for budget line items outlined in the budget.

4) Curriculum Vita for Director(s)

- 2 pages, including education, professional positions, relevant publications, and other information of relevance to the proposed workshop

5) Addenda

Proposals should arrive in OLD MAIN 339 by 5:00 pm on Monday, November 12, 2018. They may be emailed to mwc@usu.edu, dropped off at the Mountain West Center (Old Main – Room 339), or the mailing address is:

Mountain West Center
 Attn: Barbara Warnes
 Bennion Teachers' Workshop
 0735 Old Main Hill
 Logan UT 84322-0735

For more information or assistance with development of concept, please contact Evelyn Funda, MWC Director in the CHaSS Dean's Office, at mwc@usu.edu.

The Bennion Teachers' Workshop for the Perpetuation of Democratic Principles is a program made possible by an endowment to Utah State University's Mountain West Center for Regional Studies. The endowment was created by Ione Bennion, a teacher and community activist, to "provide an atmosphere and the educational resources to explore the concepts upon which democracy is built, the conditions under which it flourishes, and the dangers to its existence."



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