CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Bennion Teachers’ Workshop
for the Perpetuation of Democratic Principles

Initial Theme Ideas Deadline: October 25, 2019 ■ Final Proposal Deadline: November 11, 2019

The Mountain West Center for Regional Studies at USU seeks initial workshop theme proposals from USU faculty and/or faculty teams for the 2020 Bennion Teachers’ Workshop. Through a generous endowment, Ione Bennion, a teacher and community activist, established the Bennion Teachers’ Workshop as an annual program to for K-12 inservice, pre-service, and post-secondary teachers. On the Logan campus for five-days each June, the workshop “provides 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.” USU faculty (or faculty teams) interpret this mission broadly, focusing on timely, interdisciplinary, and global topics that explore democratic principles across a variety of humanities and social science backgrounds.

The Bennion workshop aims to connect teachers throughout the Intermountain West with faculty experts as well as nationally and internationally-recognized visiting scholars, speakers, and activists. High in content, workshops provide teachers with a solid background in the yearly topic as well as knowledgeable guidance in the development of appropriate lesson plans for use in their classrooms. Winning final proposals may include ideas for a notable keynote speaker event (which is free and open to the public), prominent visiting (physically or online) speakers/scholars/activists, a variety of hands-on experiences, suggested lesson plans, and ample time for discussion and interaction among participants and faculty. Students participating in the workshop can earn 3 academic credits or 4.5 continuing education units.

Interested faculty should contact the Bennion Faculty Fellow, Julia Gossard (julia.gossard@usu.edu), as soon as possible to discuss any ideas as well as receive further information on the formal application process.

Initial theme ideas are due October 25, 2019

Possible Topics:
Faculty are encouraged to be as creative as possible in thinking of relevant themes for the 2020 workshop. A sample of possible topics that reflect CHaSS scholarship might include:

- Sociology of Immigrant and Refugee Experiences
- A Democratic Approach to Medicine and Health
- Communication in Politics
- Teaching Cultures through Second Language Learning
- History of Native American Rights
- Philosophical Origins of Democracy
- Women in Politics
- Leadership, Military History, and Democracies
- The Folklore of Dissent
- The Rhetoric of the 2020 Presidential Election
- Archeological Approaches to Environmental Issues
- LGBTQ+ Literature
- The Rise of Social Media
- The Challenges of Journalism in a “Post-Truth” Era
- OR any creative approach to interpreting “democratic principles”
A sample of recent successful topics have included:

- Women’s Suffrage
- Revolutionary Propaganda
- The Literature of the Civil Rights Movement
- Democracy and Capitalism
- Understanding Democracy in Asia
- Journalism as a Tool for Education
- Civil Discourse and Democratic Decision-Making

Additional past topics can be viewed on the Mountain West Center’s webpage and copies of past brochures are available on request at the Mountain West Center, Main 339.

Application Process:
The Bennion Faculty Fellow and the MWC Senior Program Assistant are here to help you take your ideas and develop them into a proposal. There is a three-step application process for this competitive program (see below for more information):

1. Theme idea consultation with the Mountain West Center (by Oct 25, 2019)
2. Selected faculty will be invited to write a formal proposal (due Nov 11, 2019)
3. Bennion Board reviews proposal applications and selects 2020 theme

⇒ Consultation: The first step in the application process is to schedule a consultation with the Bennion Faculty Fellow before October 25, 2019 (the sooner the better!). We can discuss your idea together, determine the applicability of it to the Bennion Teachers’ Workshop, and review the necessary next steps.

⇒ Constructing the Formal Proposal: The Mountain West Center will invite selected faculty to write and submit a proposal narrative and budget for their workshop. The workshop will need to be held during one week in June on the USU Logan main campus (exact dates to be determined). The proposal will include the following sections:

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 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 brief CV’s 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 MWC 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. The Bennion Faculty Fellow and the Senior Program Assistant will work with you to develop this based upon previous years’ expenses. All costs should be itemized and realistic. They may include:
   - a fee for the director(s) of $5,500-$6,000 and benefits. This 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 Education Specialist, teaching assistants, graduate assistants, or staff assistants
• 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, phone, postage as needed
• teacher scholarships: travel and need based, up to $500 each, for up to eight full awards

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 info relevant to the proposed workshop

5) Addenda (CVs for speakers; other relevant material you wish to have be considered)

Formal proposals are due Monday, November 11, 2019 to mwc@usu.edu or MAIN 339 by 5:00PM.

⇒ Selection Process: The Bennion Board will review the applications, consult with the Mountain West Center, and determine a winning proposal for the 2020 program. Notification of the winning proposal takes place in early December.[Insert estimate of notification].

In addition to assisting in the design of workshop topic, the Mountain West Center provides administrative and other 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

For more information or assistance with the development of a concept, please contact the Bennion Faculty Fellow (Julia.Gossard@usu.edu) or the Mountain West Center (mwc@usu.edu).

See our website at: https://mountainwestcenter.usu.edu