An Academy for American History:
Constructing the Region, Constructing the Nation

ABSTRACT

In cooperation with other suburban school districts in Northeastern Ohio, Euclid City Schools requests $997,169.94 to support a professional development program, An Academy for American History. Managed by the Center for Urban School Collaboration in Cleveland, OH, the Academy is a collaboration of 60 history teachers from twelve school districts and historians from Cleveland State University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, and Facing History and Ourselves. Together, K-16 educators will construct the narrative of traditional American history that focuses on the artifacts, documents, stories, and peoples of the Northeastern Ohio region and in the process become experts in the content and teaching of U.S. History. Additionally, these 7th–12th grade master teachers will revise the U.S. history courses and curriculum of their districts and mentor 180 additional teachers in their schools, all with the support of district superintendents. More broadly this project will provide a model of collaborative professional development that uses local history and resources as a means of deepening the knowledge and interest of teachers and students in American history. And, finally, by better understanding U.S. history through the lens of the region, K-16 history educators and students will become active participants in the life of their communities.

In order to achieve this vision, the following objectives and outcomes will direct the project:

- **Objective 1:** Over three years, 30 history teachers from Cleveland Heights-University Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Parma, Shaker Heights, and Warrensville Heights will increase their knowledge across the chronological scope of traditional United States History.

- **Objective 2:** During the scaling up period of years two and three, 30 additional history teachers from the remaining “inner-ring” suburbs surrounding Cleveland, OH (Bedford, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Maple Heights, South Euclid, and University Heights) will also increase their knowledge across the chronological scope of traditional United States History.

- **Objective 3:** The Academy will improve teachers’ effectiveness at using a wide range of historically-appropriate technologies and pedagogies, including internet resources and databases, such as Encarta Africana as well as primary source materials and local resources.

- **Objective 4:** By year three, 75% of the Academy teachers will have presented their work exploring traditional American History in the classroom at local/regional conferences.

- **Objective 5:** At the end of the grant, a network of 60 master teachers will emerge to revise the curricula in their districts and to guide professional development within individual school buildings as a means of disseminating best practices and content knowledge in their districts. Each teacher will mentor three colleagues not involved in the Academy, expanding the effect of this training to 180 teachers.