

## **Teaching American History (TAH) Grant**

Grant Overview: The Teaching American History Grant is a federal program designed to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge and understanding of, and appreciation for, traditional U.S. history. Grant awards will assist LEAs, in partnership with entities that have content expertise, to develop, document, evaluate, and disseminate innovative and cohesive models of professional development. By helping teachers to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of U.S. history as a separate subject matter within the core curriculum, these programs will improve instruction and raise student achievement.

Working with district teachers, a proposal is being investigated where district teachers are afforded summer educational experiences with Ashland University, and monthly seminars on a variety of topics administered by Gilder Lerhman. The experience with Ashland University may be used by teachers in pursuit of a Masters degree. The intent will be for all opportunities to be made available to teachers outside of the instructional day.

Amount of Award: Up to \$500,000 over three years. Potential for extension for another two years afterwards. No match is required.

Due Date/Notification of Award: Notice of Intent to Apply due on February 22, 2010. Applications are due on March 22, 2010. Notification of award should be in July 2010.

Alternatives if not Awarded: If not funded, the district would abandon the concept for the time being.

WCSD Resources Required: The district would provide a full-time project coordinator, but the position would be covered by the grant. Other resources, such as substitute time, website space, methods of distributing, may prove necessary, but would be written into the grant budget.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of Directors instructs the administration to prepare an application to the US Department of Education Teaching American History program, to provide professional development to district teachers that will strengthen their knowledge of American history and provide tools that will improve instruction and student achievement.