



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
July 23, 2009
NR#3
2009-2010

City school system receives Teaching American History Academy grant from USDOE

Richmond Public Schools is one of six Virginia school districts to receive 2009 Teaching American History grants from the U.S. Department of Education. The nearly \$1 million grant was announced July 14 by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

In Richmond, the grant will fund the district's Teaching American History Academy II for K-12 teachers. Fifteen teachers will participate in a three-year program through the University of Richmond to earn a master's of education in curriculum and instruction for history and social studies. An additional thirty teachers will take part in a three-year professional development track program at UR that will feature workshops and field trips. Fifteen professional development track program participants will also work with Dr. Edward Ayers, president of UR, in a program designed to develop and integrate digital technology into the classroom.

The USDOE grant also will fund the school district's partnership with the University of Richmond, the Organization of American Historians, Virginia Union University, the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Historian, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Virginia State Library, Virginia State Historical Society, the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, and the Virginia Holocaust Museum that will provide 30 Richmond City teachers of American history with more than 100 hours of yearly training and instruction.

Nationwide, the USDOE awarded \$116 million in new grants to 123 school districts in 38 states.

This is the second Teaching American History grant awarded to Richmond Public Schools. The district is currently in the third year of its first grant. School officials expect the new grant to provide teacher training for at least three to five years.

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