

Americans. She has written several books and articles on the conflicts between early American settlers and Native Americans. (5) Master Teachers: Ms. Terri Hodges teaches both elementary and middle grade students at Blowing Rock Elementary School. She specializes in curriculum development and has been voted “teacher of the year” three times. Ms. Dacia Trethewey is currently working on her ME, Art Education. She is a visual arts specialist with Watauga County Schools and was recently named teacher of the year for the school district. (6) Museum representatives: Kathleen Hutton, Curator of Education, Reynolda House Museum of American Art; Susan Glasser, Director of Education, North Carolina Museum of Art; and Cheryl Palmer, Director of Education, Mint Museum of Art have promised competent and enthusiastic representatives at the conference. Duties for Guest Faculty, Master Teachers, and Museum Representatives are in the “Content of the Project” section.

Institutional Context

Appalachian State University is part of the University of North Carolina system and currently enrolls nearly 16,000 undergraduate and graduate students taught by over 700 full-time faculty. The University produces nearly 20% of all teachers in the North Carolina public school system. The Department of History has thirty-one full-time faculty members and over 450 majors; nearly 60% of those majors are in the BS, History, Secondary Education track. The Art Department has over 400 majors, including eighty enrolled in the Art Education (K-12) major track, and thirty full-time faculty.

The conference will take place over a two-day period, with participants arriving on the Appalachian State University campus on Saturday morning and the conference concluding on Sunday afternoon. Most of the conference will take place in the lecture halls and smaller classrooms located in ASU’s Belk Library and Information Commons. These are state of the art rooms, equipped with the latest “smart technology.” The only exception will be a reception and exhibit tour at the Turchin Visual Arts Center, which is within easy walking distance of the library. As there are nearly seventy schools (K-12 and home school institutions) participating in the Picturing America program within a forty-mile radius of Boone, it is expected that the participants will drive to and from the conference on Saturday

and Sunday. Parking will be available for the conference participants in a large deck adjacent to the library. There are several restaurants located within a few minutes' walk from campus at which participants may buy their own lunches. The keynote speaker will stay at the University's Broyhill Inn and Conference Center on Friday night.

Eligibility and Selection of Participants

All K-12 educators from public, private, charter, parochial, and home schools will be eligible to apply. Boone's location makes it ideal to attract educators from Watauga County and adjoining counties. As noted earlier, there are nearly seventy schools and home school institutions currently participating in the Picturing America program within a one-hour driving time from Boone. The goal will be to get a good mix of social studies and art teachers from these institutions to attend in order to encourage an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary environment at the conference. The selection committee will include the Project Director, Dr. Jim Toub (Department of Art), Dr. Myra Pennell (Social Studies History Coordinator for ASU), and the two Master Teachers. Recruitment will be done through notices sent to surrounding school districts' Social Studies and Art departments, through the ASU website, H-Net websites, and ASU's Public School Partnership. To encourage participation from schools in low-income areas, recruitment materials will be distributed through contacts established via the Appalachian Regional Commission's Western NC Center for Access and Success and the U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP programs in the state that provide professional development opportunities for teachers in low-income schools.

Professional Development of Participants

Through intensive work with scholars in the fields of American art, literature, and history, master teachers, and representatives from local museums, the participants will gain both intellectual and practical experience in conceiving ways to integrate the Picturing America images into their core curriculums. Just as important will be the continuing interaction and resources provided by the conference website (see "Dissemination and Evaluation" section). All participants in the program will

receive certificates of completion that will specify the content of the conference and the total number of contact hours that may be used to earn professional development credit equivalencies for the teachers in attendance. Follow-up activities are discussed in the “Dissemination and Evaluation” section below.

Dissemination and Evaluation

An absolutely essential component of this project will be the post-conference dissemination of materials and resources for the future use of conference participants and as resources for those schools and teachers utilizing the Picturing America images but were unable to attend the conference. Materials will include CDs containing the primary sources, additional readings, and additional artwork. Most important will be the development of a website dedicated to the project. Modeled after EdSitement.com and the J. Paul Getty Museum Education Department’s website, the project’s site will include: video of the conference proceedings (which will be done at no cost by the Appalachian State University chapter of the National Broadcasting Society); links to local and national museums; copies of written materials distributed at the conference; sample lesson plans provided by conference attendees; links to websites containing other American art that might be used in the classroom; and updates and announcements from the Picturing America program. We will also develop a listserv with the names of any and all interested teachers, librarians, and museum staff so that periodic announcements of special events, funding opportunities, and workshops can be disseminated.

Conference evaluation consists of two stages. Participants will be given a questionnaire at the end of the event with a one-week deadline for completion. This questionnaire will ask participants to rate the usefulness, strengths, and weaknesses of the conference: speakers and presentations; out of classroom experiences; materials; and logistics. A more detailed questionnaire will be sent to participants at the end of the 2010-2011 public school year. This quantitative and qualitative survey will ascertain how effective the educators have been using the conference and website information to incorporate Picturing America images in the teaching of their daily core curriculum, as well as solicit advice, suggestion, and criticisms about the functionality of the website and the listserv.

APPENDIX 1: Schedule for Conference

NEH Picturing America School Collaboration Project: “What is American About American Art?” To be held at Appalachian State University, March 19-20, 2011.

FIRST DAY: Saturday, March 19

8:30: Registration

8:45: Welcome: Michael L. Krenn, Project Director

9:00: Keynote Address: Linda Merrill

10:00: Panel I: Picturing the American Environment

Speakers: Jim Toub

Tim Silver

11:15: Refreshment Break

11:30: Break-out Sessions I & II: Mint Museum; Master Teachers

1:00: Lunch

2:00: Panel II: Picturing American Women

Speakers: Heather Waldroup

Neva Specht

3:15: Refreshment Break

3:30: Break-Out Sessions III & IV: North Carolina Museum of Art; Master

Teachers

5:00: Reception and Exhibit at Turchin Center

SECOND DAY

9:00: Panel III: Picturing the American West

Speakers: Tammy Wahpeconiah

Lynne Getz

10:15: Refreshment Break

10:30: Break-Out Sessions V & VI: Reynolda House Museum of American Art;

Master Teachers

12:00: LUNCH

1:00: Panel IV: Picturing African Americans

Speakers: Eli Bantor

Karl Campbell

2:15: Refreshment Break

2:30: Break-out Session VII: Master Teachers

4:00: Concluding Remarks: Michael L. Krenn

APPENDIX 2: Workplan

Following is a semester-by-semester breakdown of the work that will be performed during the tenure of the grant.

Summer 2010 (May-August) Work with conference coordinator to: (a) begin organizing publicity for the conference; (b) begin gathering materials from presenters/Master Teachers to be given to conference participants; (c) organize the conference office on the ASU campus; (d) begin work on the conference website.

Fall 2010 (August-December) Begin contacts with teacher organizations and school districts to begin the recruiting process. Order art history books for conference participants. Begin collating materials from presenters/Master Teachers to be given to conference participants. Bring the conference website on-line; put application materials on the website. Begin active solicitation of applicants. By November, organize the application review committee and begin the review of applications for the conference. Notify those accepted for the conference and confirm their participation. Confirm participation of museum representatives and keynote speaker. Make hotel reservation for keynote speaker and arrange travel (air and ground). Confirm with Belk Library and Information Commons on use of main lecture hall (for panels) and smaller rooms (for break-out sessions). Work with Turchin Visual Arts Center to arrange details for tour and reception at conference.

Spring 2011 (January-February) Send pre-conference materials (materials provided by guest faculty/Master Teachers) to participants. Using funds provided by the College of Arts and Sciences at Appalachian State University, contract with Food Services on campus for delivery of drinks and refreshments during conference breaks and reception at Turchin. Re-confirm with ALL conference participants.

Spring 2011 (March) Get name tags for participants and presenters from Conferences and Institutes for distribution at registration. Make sure that necessary technical equipment is available in all conference rooms. Hold conference. Begin upgrading of website to include listserv and blogging capabilities. Do initial post-conference evaluations. Deal with all stipend and reimbursement issues.

Spring 2011 (April) Finish evaluation process and prepare final report. Make sure that website continues to function and is updated and monitored. Deal with any last paperwork associated with participants, such as certificates for credit for participants. Make sure that all necessary documents are received by University Research and Sponsored Programs office and NEH.

Summer 2011 (May-June) Send out the end-of-semester evaluation to the teachers. This quantitative and qualitative survey will ascertain how effective the educators have been in using the conference and website information to incorporate Picturing America images in the teaching of their daily core curriculum, as well as solicit advice, suggestion, and criticisms about the functionality and effectiveness of the website and the listserv.