

EXCEL Abstract

The Wilderness Education Project (eligibility- non-profit), in partnership with Gilder Lehrman Institute (GLI) of American History, Gettysburg National Military Park, C3 Teachers, Ford's Theater, Franklin County Public Schools, and Pulaski County Public Schools (located in the state of Virginia) introduces Project *EXCEL* to create an engaging and innovative coalition of social studies teachers to support American History, Civics and Government, and Geography education for 500 K-12 teacher participants (100 per year) and to empower their knowledge with research-based professional development from diverse perspectives. The overall objectives of the grant are to 1) To increase the content knowledge of teacher participants in American history with innovative practices, 2) Enhance skills for teacher participants to stay relevant and responsive to evolving educational needs, 3) Promote the resources from the National Parks to encourage all participants to foster a deeper appreciation, 4) Equip instructional support staff and administrators with tools, knowledge of instructional strategies, and differentiation techniques to create inclusive learning environments for all students

The overarching goal for this American History and Civics Education National Activities program is to support innovative instruction and professional development in American History, Civics, and Government, and Geography by providing evidence-based professional development programs to improve the quality of teaching and student achievement with a focus on underserved populations. The program will provide the following activities to address our objectives: Seminars led by primary scholars, GLI self-paced courses, In-depth readings and primary sources, GLI Collection (85,000 documents), Professional Learning Network, Teaching Literacy through History, Civic Action Projects, C3 Framework, NearPod Social Studies software, Historical Content, Onsite Summer Institutes

This approach adds an inquiry and experiential element to the learning process, allowing teachers and students to engage with historical sites and landmarks related to American history. EXCEL will address all the Competitive Preference Priorities, and evidence can be found on the page 1 chart in the program narrative.