

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Ione and Wayne Bennion

Teachers' Workshop for the Perpetuation of Democratic Principles
Mountain West Center for Regional Studies

The Bennion Teachers' Workshop for the Perpetuation of Democratic Principles is a program made possible by an endowment to Utah State University's Mountain West Center for Regional Studies. The endowment was created by Ione Bennion, a teacher and community activist, to "provide an atmosphere and the educational resources to explore the concepts upon which democracy is built, the conditions under which it flourishes, and the dangers to its existence."

The workshop is held each summer and is attended by K-12 teachers and prospective teachers from throughout Utah and the Mountain West. Teachers expect the workshop to be high in content that gives them both background in the subject matter and tools for use in the classroom.

The workshop is directed by USU faculty or faculty teams who have proposed a topic and outlined a plan for the workshop. (If, at any time, there is a lack of proposals from USU faculty, we may solicit proposals from faculty members at USU or other universities.) Most good proposals include visiting speakers, hands-on experiences, practical assignments, and time for discussion and interaction among students and faculty.

How to Apply

The individual or individuals applying will need to prepare a proposal narrative and budget for the workshop. Proposals are accepted approximately 1½ years in advance of the proposed workshop dates, thus allowing optimal preparation time. The workshop is usually held during one of the conference weeks on the USU campus (pre- and post-summer semester in June and August). Applicants may suggest other times and places as well. Distance learning technology may also be employed. Effective communication and involvement with workshop participants are key considerations.

The Narrative. The proposal narrative should be up to five pages and include:

- a title for the workshop
- learning objectives
- plans for each of the five days
- names of proposed speakers and directors
- expected needs for copy services, technical services, food services, etc.
- a publicity and marketing plan—Who do you want to attend and how will you attract them? While the project directors assume primary responsibility for publicity and generating lists for mailing, the Mountain West Center staff will assist in this area and provide mailing lists as well.
- preferred number of students

The Budget. All costs should be itemized and realistic, including:

- an appropriate fee for the director(s). In general, a month's salary for the lead director has been a rule of thumb when that person assumes responsibility for follow-up with students and for mentoring student projects. One to two directors is optimum; three have occasionally worked out, though three directors stretch the budget and may limit the ability to bring in outside speakers.
- fees/honoraria and travel for visiting speakers
- costs of teaching assistants, graduate assistants, or staff assistants
- field trip expenses (if applicable)
- materials costs
- food costs (breaks, lunches, etc.)
- publicity costs (printing, mailing, phone, etc.)
- distance learning or other technological costs
- copying, phone, postage as needed

An appropriate budget will probably be in the \$15,000 - \$20,000 range. Funding variances from year to year may require a smaller budget.