

The Impact of the American History Teacher Leadership Program

The Teacher Leadership Program began with a previous Teaching American History grant, "Framing History." Here's what some of its Teacher Leaders are saying:

Being a part of the TAH Teacher Leadership Program has been the best experience of my professional career. Not only did I learn a tremendous amount about teaching American History and imparting my knowledge to other teachers, I also learned a great deal about myself and my own capabilities. When I entered this program, I was extremely uncomfortable speaking in public to any audience whose participants were over 12 years old. With the knowledge and encouragement of a wonderful, superb staff, and the support of terrific colleagues, who have all since become friends, I completed the program with the confidence that I could be a qualified staff developer. I am looking forward to my next challenge, and I am so grateful that I was fortunate enough to have this opportunity. -Darlene Smith

Participation in the Teacher Leadership Program has had a major impact on me personally and on my school. Because of the Teacher Leadership Program, Public School 5 received a grant to implement a Social Studies Resource Room for teachers, students, and visitors. In addition, Public School 5 is in the process of developing a Social Studies committee and an after school Social Studies program (especially for boys). I see this Social Studies Resource Room as an opportunity, for everyone involved, to breathe life back into history, quench our thirst for knowledge, make mistakes, learn, and grow professionally.

Participation in the Teacher Leadership Program has helped me to grow as an individual. I have learned how to understand and accept my strengths and weaknesses, set goals, have a vision, and use the tools given to me to make my visions a reality. Being an educator means learning to accept the fact that the world is constantly changing and that we as educators do not know everything. It's scary, but there are programs, such as the Teacher Leadership Program where diverse teachers can come together and not be afraid to admit our fears and misconceptions, ask questions, and most importantly learn how to work collaboratively in the best interest of the students. This is what being an educator and a learner is all about. -Cherubim Cannon

I have never worked with such a wonderful group of professionals! From the teachers to the advisors, we were able to put on a day of Professional Development that was very successful, very informative, and a lot of fun.

Working with all the partnering organizations really shaped my teaching. I came from a non-traditional background into teaching (from Law), and this program has really helped me and my teaching. I am now in charge of the Social Studies Resource Room in my school, and lead much of the departmental PD sessions. I am also a member of my school's instructional team as well as the inquiry team trying to help our school become that much better! I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Teacher Leadership program. -Evan Lipton