

ADVANCING THE HUMANITIES AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES: A NEH BRIDGING CULTURES PROJECT

A project of the Community College Humanities Association, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities
Project Directors: David A. Berry and Diane U. Eisenberg



APPLICATION FORM – Call for Proposals

(Information about this Competition)



The **Community College Humanities Association (CCHA)** is pleased to announce a national competition to strengthen introductory courses in community colleges that enhance understanding of diverse countries, peoples, as well as cultural and intellectual traditions worldwide. This Call for Proposals enables community colleges to investigate how Americans have approached and attempted to surmount seemingly unbridgeable divides, or examine the ideals of civility and civic discourse that have informed this quest.

Eighteen two-year colleges will be competitively selected to participate in CCHA's curriculum and faculty development project, *Advancing the Humanities at Community Colleges: A NEH Bridging Cultures Project* for an eighteen month period, May 2012 through December 2013. This CCHA project will enable the selected colleges to develop and implement courses, modules, and programs on diverse cultural and civic themes into their curricula, with guidance from humanities scholars and experienced community college humanities mentors.

This project responds to calls from many quarters for the people of this country to come together, to treat each other with civility, and to move to constructive deliberative dialogue, understanding and community activities. The community college, with its increasingly diverse student body, offers an exemplary opportunity to advance the NEH Bridging Cultures initiative to revitalize intellectual and civic life through the humanities - - and to do so through sound humanities scholarship in the disciplines of history, literature, philosophy, and the study of religion.

Community colleges selected to participate will develop programs that incorporate new scholarship and texts into existing courses, or new courses if they choose, with emphasis on cultural understanding and building community in the classroom, the college and the community. Each college is asked to submit a proposal to address one of the following:

- **LITERATURE:** To strengthen introductory literature courses on Bridging Cultures themes or topics, design new courses or course sequences, concentrations or core curricula or conduct scholarly research that will improve faculty preparation and enrich teaching. **Mentor:** Kathy Fedorko, Professor of English Emerita and Director Emerita, Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching at Middlesex County College, N.J.
- **HISTORY:** To strengthen introductory American History or World Civilization courses on Bridging Cultures themes or topics, design new courses or course sequences, concentrations or core curricula or conduct scholarly research that will improve faculty preparation and enrich teaching. Primary sources are encouraged. **Mentor:** Maureen Nutting, Professor of History and Department Coordinator at North Seattle Community College, WA.
- **PHILOSOPHY:** To strengthen introductory philosophy courses with an emphasis on human rights and ethics on Bridging Cultures themes or topics, design new courses or course sequences, concentrations or core curricula or conduct scholarly research that will improve faculty preparation and enrich teaching. Primary sources are encouraged. **Mentor:** Jeffrey Clauson, Instructor of Philosophy at Green River Community College, WA.
- **RELIGION:** To strengthen introductory religion courses on Bridging Cultures themes or topics, design new courses or course sequences, concentrations or core curricula or conduct scholarly research that will improve faculty preparation and enrich teaching. Primary sources are encouraged. **Mentor:** Emily Tai, Professor of History at Queensborough Community College, City University of New York.
- **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:** To strengthen introductory humanities courses to advance cultural and civic understanding and build civic life in the college and the community. Primary sources are encouraged. **Mentor:** Virginia York, Professor of History at Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City, FL and Associate, Kettering Foundation.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This project will be most helpful to community college humanities faculty interested in expanding their existing courses or creating new courses, modules and programs that incorporate new scholarship to build understanding of other cultures.

PROJECT FEATURES & BENEFITS

Successful applicants will participate in the following set of activities and services.

- **NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE I**, September 27 -29, 2012, Washington, D.C. Assigned mentors and scholars will work intensively with three-member teams from the selected colleges to begin to develop a plan to advance cultural understanding toward building community. Each college will develop an Action Plan for implementation during the project's eighteen month period. A highlight of the conference will be presentations by humanities scholars and mentors on their area of research and experience. Participants will have opportunities to network with colleagues and learn about other NEH grant opportunities. Travel support for two faculty members of the three-member team from each selected college will be provided by CCHA, as well as a stipend of \$2,000 to each of two humanities faculty team members to pursue project tasks and independent scholarship to strengthen preparation and enrich teaching.
- **MENTORING SERVICES:** Five humanities mentors with expertise and experience in the areas listed on page 1 of this Application Form will serve as advisors to the selected colleges. They will work with their assigned teams at the first NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE and via site visits, email, on-line forums, and telephone throughout the 18-month project period. Mentors and scholars will be available on an ongoing basis to provide resources, contacts and assistance. Each selected college will be assigned a humanities mentor with pertinent experience, and will also work with humanities scholars with expertise in a spectrum of the world's cultures.
- **HUMANITIES SCHOLARS:** Three nationally recognized scholars will provide expertise and guidance. Each will be featured at the NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE I: **John Voll**, Professor of Islamic History and Associate Director, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University; **Clement Price**, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History and the African Diaspora at Rutgers University - Newark; **Lyn Di Iorio**, Associate Professor of Caribbean and U.S. Latino/a Literatures and Associate Professor of English at the City College of New York & the CUNY Graduate Center.
- ***Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges News***, reporting the progress of the selected colleges, and other news from NEH and CCHA, will be published throughout the project

period. Also included will be articles by mentors and scholars, excerpts from presentations made at the national conferences, news of related professional meetings and other information on civic programs.

- **NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE II**, December 2013 (location to be determined). The selected colleges will reconvene to share the progress they have made in developing and implementing their Action Plans. Travel support for one humanities team member will be provided by CCHA.
- ***Bridging Cultures Programs at Community Colleges***, a case study monograph documenting the accomplishments of the 18 selected colleges, will be published on-line and in print formats to encourage replication by other community colleges. It will be broadly distributed to all community college presidents, CCHA members, and the state humanities councils.
- ***Assistance in preparing for NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE I*** including interaction with an assigned mentor via on-line forums to discuss Project Reader, *core* texts and preliminary drafts of Action Plan.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS

To be considered community colleges must complete and return this Application Form by **April 25, 2012** accompanied by two-page resume for all team members and a letter of commitment from and signed by the college chief executive officer. The letter will include the following institutional commitments:

- Send a three-person team identified within this Application Form to NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE I, September 27 – 29, 2012: two humanities faculty and one academic administrator with budgetary responsibility, such as an academic dean. The college will provide travel expenses for the administrator. Travel expenses for the faculty members will be provided by CCHA.
- Send one team member to NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE II. Travel expenses will be provided by CCHA; additional members may attend at the college's expense.
- Implement, during the eighteen month project period, the Action Plan developed by your college's team at the first NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE in cooperation with your assigned mentor. Confirm that required preliminary planning with your assigned mentor will begin in May 2012 and will be accomplished prior to the conference.
- Participate fully in all aspects of the project assessment between September 2012 and December 2013.
- Affirm that the administrator team member will be actively involved in the college's implementation process that follows the first NATIONAL CONFERENCE.



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APPLICATION FORM (Cover Sheet)



1. Community College: _____

College Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

2. Is your college a multi-campus college? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes" which campus(es) would this project involve? _____

3. Humanities Faculty Team Member: _____

Title: _____ Division: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____ e-mail: _____

4. Humanities Faculty Team Member: _____

Title: _____ Division: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____ e-mail: _____

5. Administrator Team Member: _____

Title: _____ Division: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____ e-mail: _____

6. Our Team Leader (contact person) is: _____

7. If selected, we the undersigned team members, commit to participate fully in all aspects of this project throughout the eighteen month project period (May 2012 – December 2013). We have met to review this completed application form; we agree on the direction in which we want to proceed.

Humanities Faculty Team Member

Signature

Date

Humanities Faculty Team Member

Signature

Date

Administrator Team Member

Signature

Date

College President

Signature

Date

Telephone () _____ e-mail _____

**ADVANCING THE HUMANITIES AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES:
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APPLICATION FORM
(Continued)

Note: Attach responses to questions 8 – 11 (3-5 pages, 12 point type, double space; please number your responses)

8. Indicate which of the five BRIDGING CULTURES humanities initiatives on the front of this Application Form would be of most value to your curriculum?
- Project Initiative: _____
9. As your team designs, develops and implements a new BRIDGING CULTURES initiative, what are the resources and institutional strengths available to you? What are the challenges you will face? (Bold plans to initiate a new program, add faculty, or provide released time are suggested, but not required.)
10. What steps/activities will your team have to accomplish in order to develop and implement either a new course, revisions to an existing course, a new module or program that will be available to students by Spring 2013. Present your answer in the form of a set of specific tasks, i.e., a draft Action Plan, for review with your assigned mentor prior to and at the first NATIONAL BRIDGING CULTURES CONFERENCE?
11. How will your new BRIDGING CULTURES humanities initiative be continued after the grant period? Please explain.

HOW TO APPLY:

- **First Step:** Complete NEH Applicant/Participant Information Sheet at <https://securegrants.neh.gov/BCCC/Applications/> - each team member.
? Print and attach as the first page of this application packet.
- Complete CCHA Application Form cover sheet.
- Prepare and attach 3 – 5 page narrative in response to questions 8 – 11.
- Attach resumes for all team members (no more than 2 pages each).
- Attach letter of commitment from CEO/President.
- Mail 1 original and 7 complete copies to CCHA to arrive on or before April 25, 2012.
(Faxed or e-mail copies will not be accepted)

NEH BRIDGING CULTURES PROJECT
Community College Humanities Association
C/O Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102

Please call or email if you have any questions: Diane U.Eisenberg, 301-652-1901 (eaconsul.1@verizon.net) or,
David A. Berry, 973-877-3577 (berry@essex.edu)

Selected colleges will be informed in mid - May 2012

