



Robert C. Byrd Center  
for CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY AND EDUCATION

# Teacher Institute

2018 Overview and Assessment Report

## Teaching About Congress, the U.S. Constitution, and Representative Government

The third annual Teacher Institute, sponsored by the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, welcomed nearly 100 educators from across West Virginia at five workshops. With the support of a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Teacher Institute was held in multiple locations for the first time this year, with workshops held in Charleston, Lewisburg, Morgantown, Shepherdstown, and Martinsburg.

Established in 2016, the Byrd Center Teacher Institute is a core part of the center's mission to advance representative democracy by engaging the public through educational programs. Through their participation in the institute, educators receive demonstrations of innovative teaching tools and resources, based on the primary sources of the National Archives and Records Administration, as well as those of the Byrd Center's Archives.

## Acknowledgements:

The Teacher Institute would not be possible without the support of the following professionals, organizations, and institutions:

Dr. Charles Flanagan, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Karen Rice, Shepherd University's Office of Continuing Education and Graduate Studies

The West Virginia Humanities Council

Our Host Organizations: The West Virginia Culture Center, West Virginia State Fair, West Virginia University, and Shepherd University Martinsburg Center.

## Overview of the 2018 Teacher Institute:

Monday, June 18, 2018 – The first workshop was convened in the West Virginia Culture Center, located on the grounds of the Capitol in Charleston. Educators were introduced to teaching lessons on the role of Congress, mapping the U.S. Constitution and the powers that it delegates to each branch of the government, and a board game explaining the legislative process. Joseph Geiger, the Director of the West Virginia State Archives, gave a presentation on resources available from the collections housed in the Culture Center.

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 – Our second workshop brought us to Lewisburg in Greenbrier County, where we gathered in the West Virginia University Building at the State Fairgrounds. In addition to the lesson plans and resources of the National Archives' Center for Legislative Archives, educators also had the opportunity to participate in teaching modules utilizing the digital exhibit *The Great Society Congress* and resources of the Byrd Center and West Virginia and Regional History Center exploring the state and federal response to the 1985 floods.

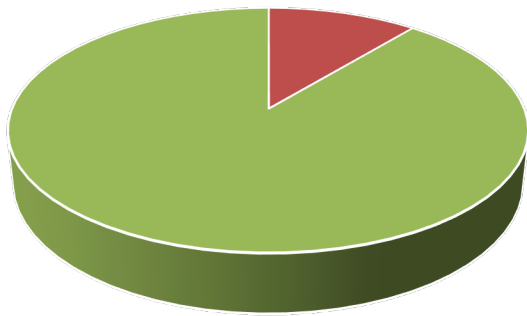
Wednesday, June 20, 2018 – The third workshop was held in the Downtown Campus Library at West Virginia University in Morgantown. Educators received a behind-the-scenes tour of the West Virginia and Regional History Center and viewed an exhibit on the center's congressional collections. The tour was given by Lori Hostuttler, the center's Assistant Director.

Thursday, August 9, 2018 – Our fourth and largest workshop was hosted at the Byrd Center in Shepherdstown. Participants explored the center's collections and toured the archives as well as our exhibits *Robert C. Byrd: Senator, Statesman, West Virginian* and *Redeveloping Appalachia*.

Saturday, October 13, 2018 – The fifth and final workshop in the 2018 Teacher Institute was held at the Martinsburg Center of Shepherd University. In addition to the Center for Legislative Archives modules and West Virginia 1985 Floods recovery teaching lesson, educators were given an overview of the Byrd Center and tools for employing primary sources in classroom instruction.

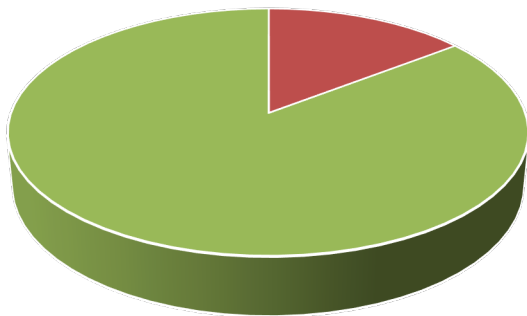


Quality of Presenters/Facilitators



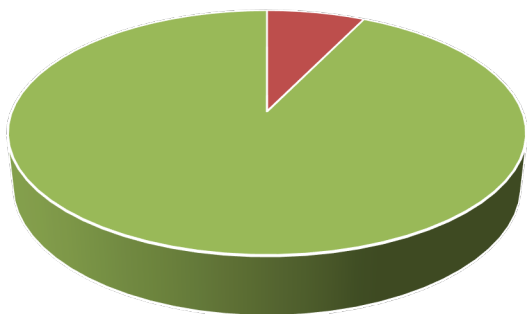
■ Poor ■ Satisfactory ■ Excellent

Quality of Presentations



■ Poor ■ Satisfactory ■ Excellent

Quality of Setting and Amenities



■ Poor ■ Satisfactory ■ Excellent

## Participant Comments:

"I really enjoyed this workshop – not only did I learn how to incorporate a variety of high-quality lessons, but I also learned more about the complex aspects of the different branches of government. Thank you so much for bringing this workshop to southern West Virginia!"

"This workshop was excellent! As a non-social studies teacher, I gathered many ideas to use across-curriculum activities."

"Teaching both English/Language Arts and Social Studies, I learned new ways to incorporate both subjects together. The resources were great and easy to adapt to all levels and students."

"Excellent presentation, several resources that I can immediately take into my classrooms on civic education. I loved that all the lessons were emphasizing engagement on very active level. I really enjoyed the lesson of the 1985 flood. I would love to see a training like this solely focused on multiple lessons about WV history."

"I really enjoyed this class! I learned so much about making the constitution accessible to my students. The presenters were well prepared and lively. The provided materials were very helpful, and I liked the interactive tasks. Thank you for a wonderful experience."

"I signed up for two reasons: to get credit for continuing education, and to learn about the U.S. government. I am a science teacher. I loved this seminar! Not only did I learn a great deal, but I learned new strategies to implement in my science classes. Thank you!"

"This class was amazing. I look forward to using these resources in my classroom. I would love the opportunity to go to more of these in the future. This as the most useful training I have had in years."

"Great training both presenters were beyond expected. Both very knowledgeable of their craft and presentation. I will be researching both websites that were introduced."

"Very informative and useful professional development session for teachers of all content levels and areas. Knowledgeable and experienced speakers kept our attentions."