



# Teacher Institute

## 2019 Overview and Assessment Report

### Teaching About Congress and the Constitution in Four Periods of American History

The Robert C. Byrd Congressional History and Education's fourth annual Teacher Institute engaged over 100 educators from across West Virginia at six workshops in 2019 and early 2020. With the support of a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the Teacher Institute conducted three workshops in Shepherdstown as well as workshops in Morgantown, Beckley, and Charleston.

The 2019 institute provided teachers with free lessons rooted in primary sources and experiential learning methodologies to guide their students through the history of Congress and the Constitution in the context of the Early Republic, Civil War, Industrial Revolution, Progressive, and Post-WWII Eras. Since 2016, the Byrd Center Teacher Institute has brought educators together with scholars and topic specialists who have developed innovative tools for teaching about civics, citizenship, and government, the building blocks of representative democracy.



### 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 2019 Teacher Institute:

Monday, June 24, 2019 – The Institute opened with our first workshop at the Downtown Campus Library of West Virginia University in Morgantown. Participants started the day with a module called “Mapping the Constitution” which teaches students the division of powers and responsibilities within the United States Constitution. Workshop attendees received a special behind-the-scenes tour of the West Virginia and Regional History Center with Assistant Director Lori Hostuttler.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 – The Institute arrived in West Virginia’s Capitol City and engaged with educators at the West Virginia Culture Center. Teachers explored a lesson plan using the Wilmot Proviso to explore the spread of sectionalism leading up to the Civil War.

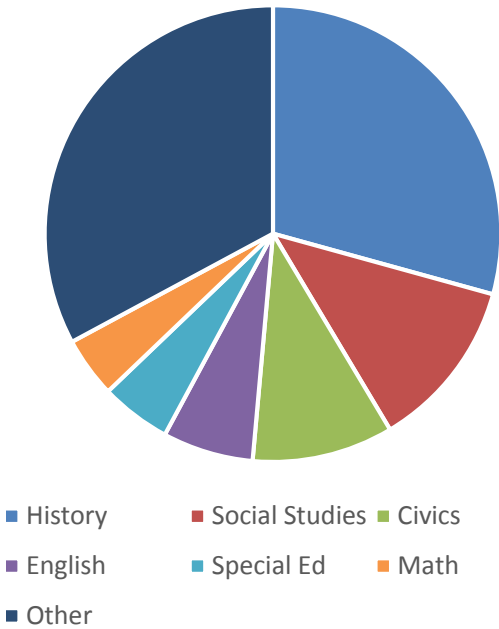
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 – Visiting Senator Byrd’s hometown of Beckley, the third Institute workshop was held in the recently-renovated library of the West Virginia Institute of Technology. Educators received a greeting from the University Provost Dr. Joan Neff, tour of the campus, and explored lesson plans on the Progressive Era, highlighting the fight for child labor protections and women’s suffrage.

Thursday, June 27, 2019 – The fourth workshop of the Institute returned home to the Byrd Center on the campus of Shepherd University. Teachers toured Senator Byrd’s archive housed at the center and were introduced to a lesson plan exploring the creation and impact of the Appalachian Regional Commission in West Virginia.

Saturday, October 26, 2019 and Saturday, January 25, 2020 – Two additional workshops were held in Shepherdstown at the Byrd Center, welcoming educators for a day of demonstrations by the National Archives’ Center for Legislative Archives Outreach Supervisor Dr. Charles Flanagan and Byrd Center Archivist and Office Manager Jody Brumage. Participants toured the Byrd Center archives and had the opportunity to see original documents and artifacts from West Virginia’s congressional history.



### Subject Areas Taught by Participating Teachers



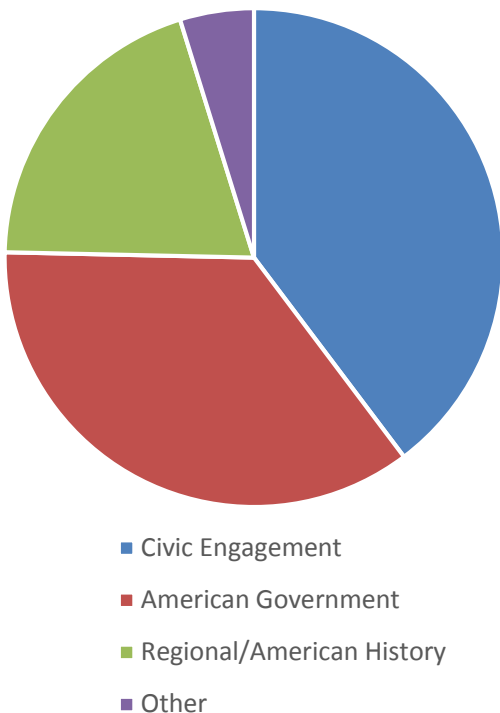
### A Look at Our Institute Participants:

The Byrd Center’s Teacher Institute is attended by a broad range of educators who work in diverse subject areas students throughout all primary and second grade levels.

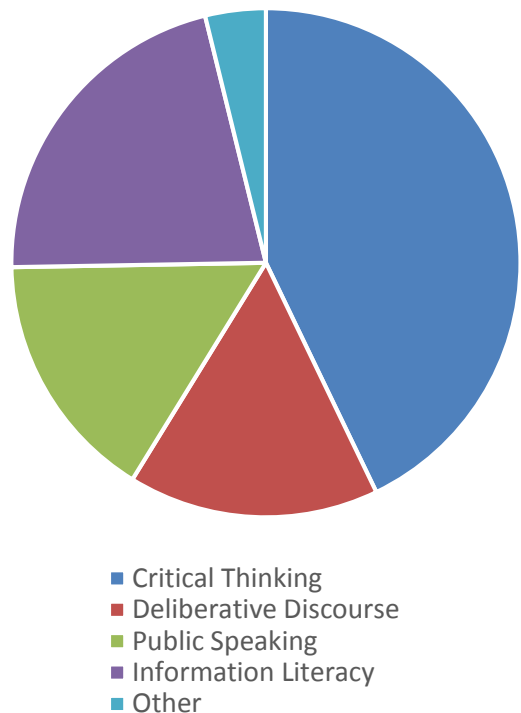
In 2019, 10% of Institute participants had previously attended a workshop while 90% were new to the program.

At the beginning of each workshop, we ask educators to make us aware of the areas in which they feel their students have the most room for potential as well as the subjects for which they need more classroom resources. The responses to these questions directly inform the Byrd Center’s direction in creating new lesson modules. The responses from this year’s participants are presented below.

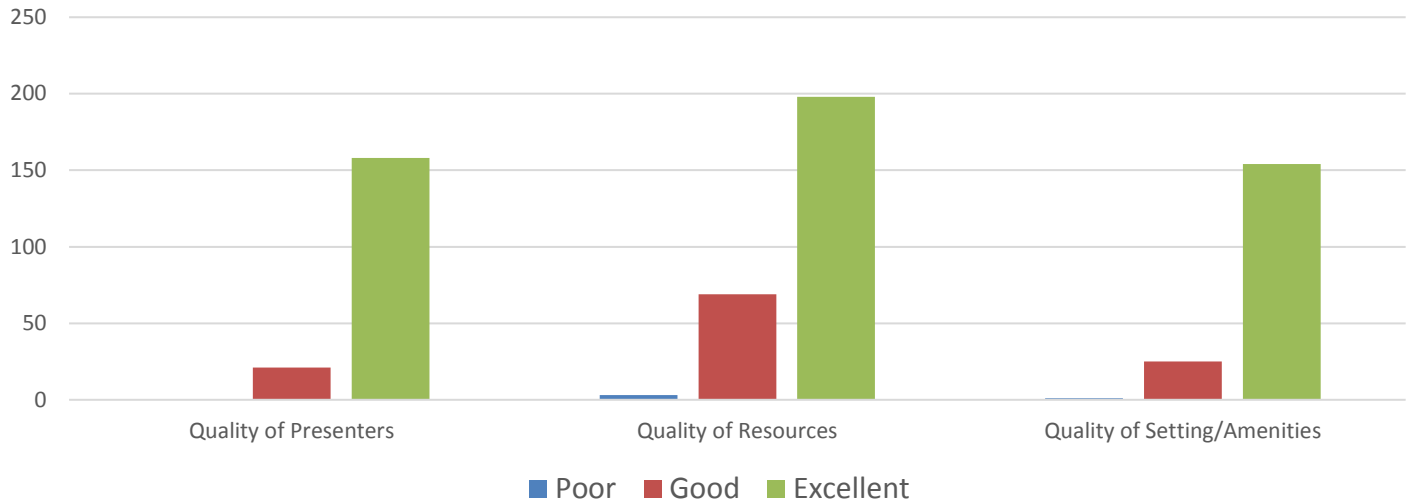
### Subject Areas Educators Feel Their Students Have Most Room for Growth



### Skills Educators Feel They Need New Resources to Teach



## Overview of Teacher Institute Participant Feedback



### Resources:

"Great lesson plans, extremely engaging, great resources. This will 100% be used in my 8th grade classroom."

"I appreciated this glimpse into the amazing wealth of knowledge the National Archives must have. I appreciate that the Educational Resources have been fashioned into lesson plans that would be engaging for students."

"I was inspired to plan lessons using the resources shown in my 5th grade classroom lessons. I loved the idea of comparing and contrasting maps and graphs from past for present."

### Presenters:

"This is my second class with these presenters. I enjoy the information and ideas they share. I have come away with materials/ideas that I have and can use in class."

"Appreciated how well prepared each presenter was. Technology worked well and enhanced the presentations. Hand-on activities were well thought out and engaging."

"I really appreciated the interactive nature of Charlie's presentations. Jody's lesson of putting the sticky notes on the map is very visual and I loved that. I think all these lesson plans for my students will be really engaging."

## What Our Participants Have to Say:

### Overall Institute:

"This professional development exceeded my expectations. Thanks so much for the opportunity to attend."

"I am not a proponent of requiring other professionals to take particular coursework but it is my strong belief that all West Virginia History, History, and Government educators should be required to take this course."

"Warm and inviting setting, charismatic and engaging instruction, well-paced and planned day. Appreciated the archive tour mid-day. So grateful for the scholarship opportunity. Enjoyed the whole day!"

"I am a music teacher that was just looking for free professional development. Had my doubts about how I could relate to the materials. Holy cow! This was awesome and I learned how many things I can use for cross-curricular lessons."

"This has been one of the best classes I have taken! I learned so much about government, since I live in Maryland, I wish Maryland would also do something like this! Outstanding job!"

"I am leaving with so many new ideas to bring math and reading into my history class. The provided plans are amazing. Thank you!"