

NEWS

FROM THE JAMESTOWN-YORKTOWN FOUNDATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIRGINIA EDUCATORS ACQUIRE NEW HISTORY-TEACHING SKILLS AT JAMESTOWN-YORKTOWN FOUNDATION SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. – Crissy Gentry, a 4th-grade teacher at Greenfield Elementary in Botetourt County school district and 19 other educators from Virginia will bring to their classrooms new knowledge and experience gained during the 2019 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Summer Teacher Institute, held July 8-11 at Jamestown Settlement, a living-history museum of 17th-century Virginia.

Correlated with the Virginia Standards of Learning and national curriculum objectives, the institute emphasized authentic learning activities, including interactive, inquiry-based methods of teaching American history. A major component of the program was the opportunity for teachers to develop project-based learning experiences and collaborate with other teachers and history professionals.

The institute included tours of the museum’s exhibition galleries and outdoor living-history areas – re-created Powhatan Indian village, 1607 ships and 1610-14 colonial fort at Jamestown Settlement, as well as academic presentations and lesson development workshops.

Teachers took part in Dig Deeper programs, including “Kindling a Spark” and “Home on the James,” which are designed to help students acquire new skills in cooperative learning, critical thinking and problem-solving. Educators attended workshops on historical clothing and interpretation theory and methods, while also learning about aspects of Virginia history, such as the Powhatan Indian culture, the origins of the Jamestown colony, indentured servitude and slavery and trade among the Powhatan Indians and English. They also took part in “A Sea Grammar” hands-on programs featuring 17th-century seamanship on board Jamestown Settlement’s re-created Godspeed.

The institute concluded with presentations of lesson plans developed during the week. Each participant received a kit of reproduction artifacts to use in the classroom.

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The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the Virginia state agency that operates Jamestown Settlement and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, is the largest provider of structured education programs in the Commonwealth offering structured education programs for students at its two museums and in outreach settings. During the 2018-19 academic year, outreach education programs were presented a total of 86,625 students in 104 of Virginia's 132 school districts. The Foundation also partners with Virginia school districts to train educators in historical content and hands-on teaching methodology and supports the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute in Early American History with historical content, teaching strategies and on-site instruction.

For more information about Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation education programs, call (888) 868-7593 toll-free or (757) 253-4939 or visit www.historyisfun.org.

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