

(i.e., grants through CIES not student grants or Department of Education grants) as well as recent, extensive international experience, particularly in the host country. Reviewers are also asked to assess an applicant's ability to serve as an ambassador.

Following all of the advice provided here does not guarantee you will win a Fulbright award, but a carefully prepared application maximizes your chances. You will never find out whether you can win an award until you try.

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## National Consortium for Teaching About Asia Presentation

East Asia Centers at five institutions across the country are collaborating on a multi-year initiative called the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA), launched to encourage and facilitate teaching and learning about Asia in precollege courses in world history, geography, social studies, and literature. During the past three years, over 1,500 teachers in twenty-eight states have completed an intensive course of instruction sponsored by NCTA with funding from the Freeman Foundation. The five institutions coordinating the NCTA seminar program are the University of Washington, the University of Colorado, Indiana University, Columbia University, and Five Colleges, Incorporated. (The Five Colleges include Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.)

Speaking on behalf of her NCTA colleagues, Mary Hammond Bernson, who directs the NCTA site at the University of Washington, stated, "Those of us at the five institutions coordinating the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia are delighted that funding from the Freeman Foundation is making it possible to have such an impact on teaching about Asia in our schools." Each of the five coordinating sites has established a record of working successfully with schools by offering workshops and institutes and by lending resources to improve the way East Asia is taught in schools. What distinguishes the NCTA model from previous efforts are both its scale and level of coordination as well as the sustained nature of the relationships it creates between colleges and schools.

"NCTA brings college and precollege teachers together," says Lynn Parisi of the Colorado coordinating site. "The NCTA seminar has an impact different from a workshop or even a two-week institute because there is more opportunity for *significant* reading and discussion, time for taking things back into the classroom and trying them out, space for reflection, and a chance to network with colleagues in the vicinity of the seminar. The seminar creates a community of inquiry," she explained.

Each year NCTA supports seminars for a minimum of 500 teachers of history, geography, social studies, and literature around the country. The focus of the seminars is initially on East Asia, although a seminar program on South-east Asia is being piloted through Five Colleges. All five NCTA sites are responsible for recruiting and supporting local sites and seminar leaders. Seminar leaders include university faculty of Asian studies, Asia outreach specialists, and master teachers working in collaboration with their own institutions and the Consortium.

Faculty from colleges and universities associated with ASIANetwork are invited to contact site coordinators if the faculty member is interested in leading a seminar or the institution is willing to host a seminar. Each seminar leader or team facilitates a thirty-hour seminar on East Asian history and culture that incorporates primary-source selections from the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean traditions. Individual seminars are adapted to the needs and curricula of the participating teachers and school districts in order to promote long-term engagement in Asian studies by core groups of teachers within schools, districts, and school consortia. NCTA seeks to develop a forum for collegial examination and discussion of Asia-related issues and strategies for teaching about Asia.

The selection of participating teachers and school districts is based on their commitment to integrating the study of Asia into their curricula. In joining a local seminar, teachers make a professional commitment to participate in the full thirty hours of instruction on East Asian history and culture. Following the seminar, teachers incorporate new content and materials about Asia into their own courses and school curricula. In addition to assisting in the evaluation of the NCTA program, teachers agree to participate in one or two meetings during the academic year following their seminar instruction.

The benefits of the NCTA program to seminar participants are many. Most sites offer course or recertification credit. All seminars offer quality instruction about Asia from leading experts in the field. Teachers receive an excellent selection of background materials on Asia for their use, and their schools are given a generous donation of exemplary curriculum materials on Asia for their libraries or teacher resource centers. In addition, teachers receive a stipend upon completion of the seminar and after submitting an implementation plan; they receive an additional stipend the following year, once they have integrated Asia into their curricula. Alumni of the program are invited to apply for opportunities for field study in China, Japan, and Korea, also administered by NCTA.

"What some teachers get out of the NCTA program," says Jacques Fuqua of the Indiana University site, "amounts to a life-changing experience, but one with practical benefits, too—thirty contact hours, credit toward a degree or professional development points that may lead to an increase in salary, an opportunity to build relationships with peers as well as with scholars of Asian studies, opportunities for travel and grants to help build school resources—all that goes beyond merely teaching and learning." These were

the major points of Fuqua's address to the plenary session at the ASIANetwork's annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio in April 2000.

"We are always looking for additional institutions with which to partner in order to introduce the NCTA seminar format into new areas of the country, he continued. In fact, several ASIANetwork members, such as Wittenberg University and Augustana College, are already cooperating with NCTA. These partnerships represent the synergistic effect we can achieve if members of our two organizations find common ground upon which to proceed." Fuqua closed his remarks to a clearly enthusiastic audience by urging ASIANetwork member schools interested in becoming a part of this growing program to contact the NCTA coordinating sites in their respective regions.

In elaborating upon the goals of NCTA seminars, Kathleen Woods Masalski, of the Five Colleges, Incorporated site at Smith College, points to one of the findings in *Asia in the Schools*, recently published by the Asia Society: "The (National) Commission (on Asia in the Schools) found that teachers often work hard to incorporate Asia-related content in the classroom, but they must do so without adequate background or opportunities to upgrade their knowledge through professional development and often without the benefit of quality instructional materials." "Meeting this challenge is exactly what NCTA is about," Masalski asserted. "NCTA seminars offer a professional development opportunity complete with the benefit of quality instruction and quality instructional materials."

NCTA welcomes the collaboration of others in expanding the seminar program. Roberta Martin, who directs the Columbia University site, noted that the University of Oklahoma, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and the University of Pittsburgh are currently hosting satellite coordinating sites. In addition, seven new administrative partners within individual states—the China Institute in New York City, the Universities of North Carolina, Florida, and Kansas, Rice University, UCLA, and Stanford University—are administering several seminars in their respective states in 2001-2002. "Partner sites within states with large populations are extremely important in helping us expand our capacity as a national consortium," said Martin, "and in creating the network that will support a permanent place for Asia in state and local curricula."

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The NCTA Web site is under construction at <http://ncta.easia.columbia.edu>. It will eventually link all states and sites.