



News Release

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Teachers See History Anew with Original Records at the National Archives *Texas Instruments Scholarships Make It Possible*

Washington, D.C.... Fifty-five teachers from eleven states across the country experienced an up-close view of history over the summer. They were this year's participants in the National Archives' highly acclaimed Primarily Teaching Institute, which provides in-depth training on using primary source records for teaching. The training has become more accessible to more teachers in recent years thanks to a scholarship program of the Foundation for the National Archives that was underwritten again this year by a \$20,000 gift from Texas Instruments.

"We are delighted to continue our support for teachers who attend this valuable training institute," Paula Collins, Texas Instruments vice president of government affairs, said. "It is one of the many ways we have partnered with the Foundation for the National Archives to make the wealth of historical treasures in the National Archives more accessible to the public and to educators across the country."

Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein said, "The popularity of Primarily Teaching remains strong three decades after we first offered the training at our headquarters in Washington, D.C. Now the institute is offered nationwide at several regional archives facilities and at presidential libraries. The scholarships from the Foundation for the National Archives, funded by Texas Instruments, have helped us extend even further the reach of this award-winning program."

Primarily Teaching was developed by agency education specialists to give teachers access to the rich resources of the National Archives and to demonstrate how these materials can be used in the classroom. Participants learn how to conduct archival research, develop lessons based on primary sources, and present the records in ways that sharpen students' skills and their enthusiasm for history, government, and other subjects.

This year's participants chose to explore such topics as the Civil Rights Movement, westward expansion, Japanese-American internment, and the process for minting currency.

Texas history teacher Elizabeth Chapman was excited to learn about immigration through the records at the National Archives Southwest Region in Fort Worth, where she attended

the institute. She developed a lesson for her seventh-grade class in Houston using copies of “declaration of intent” forms. The descriptive data on the forms—including a petitioner’s native country, age, occupation, physical characteristics—she hopes will help her students connect with and understand the motivations of the early immigrants to Texas.

Chapman’s new enthusiasm will likely lead her back to the records center in Fort Worth for additional research and lesson planning. She said, “Primarily Teaching was fantastic. I wish every history teacher could attend because the program has the potential to energize teachers and students and help them move away from the rote memorization of history facts to a more meaningful look into the past.”

“Every year, we see educators using the resources of the National Archives in new and innovative ways, and programs like Primarily Teaching have a multiplying effect on this phenomenon. One teacher’s enthusiasm for the records of the National Archives will spread to dozens of her students and colleagues each year, who will cause the excitement to continue to spread,” said Tom Wheeler, President of the Foundation for the National Archives. “For more than eight years our partners at Texas Instruments have played an integral part in helping to make that happen. We are very grateful for their continued support.”

About the Foundation for the National Archives

Created in 1992, the Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit organization committed to increasing public awareness and appreciation of the National Archives as an essential resource in the American democracy. The Foundation serves as the private-sector partner of the National Archives in the creation of the *National Archives Experience*, a national civic literacy initiative which includes permanent exhibits, educational programs, traveling exhibits, special events and screenings, educational literature, and historical/records-related products and media. The Foundation supports these activities by generating financial and creative support from individuals, foundations and corporations who share a belief in the importance of innovative civics education.

About the National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration is a Federal agency that serves American democracy by safeguarding and preserving the records of our government, ensuring that the people can discover, use, and learn from this documentary heritage. It supports democracy, promotes civic education, and facilitates historical understanding of our national experience. Every subject relating to American history is covered in the nine billion pages, the millions of photographs, maps and electronic records and the thousands of motion pictures and audio recordings that are available to the public at the National Archives nationwide. The National Archives maintains 20 regional records facilities and 12 Presidential libraries nationwide, as well as the Office of the Federal Register, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO).

About Texas Instruments

Texas Instruments (NYSE: TXN) helps customers solve problems and develop new electronics that make the world smarter, healthier, safer, greener and more fun. A global semiconductor company, TI innovates through manufacturing, design and sales operations in more than 25 countries. For more information, go to www.ti.com

For more information about Primarily Teaching, visit <http://www.archives.gov/education/primarily-teaching/>.

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