

# NEWS RELEASE



---

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT • (513) 363-0020 • FAX: (513) 363-0025

**For Immediate Release ★ July 26, 2011**

**Contact:**

**Carolyn Pedapati**  
**Social studies curriculum manager**  
**Cincinnati Public Schools**  
**363-3208**

***Media are invited to Dr. Mary Johnson's talk, 11:30 a.m. August 1,  
at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.***

## **CPS Social Studies Teachers Spend Week Exploring American History**

A Teaching American History grant is providing a weeklong summer institute for Cincinnati Public Schools' social studies teachers, aimed at developing a deeper appreciation of U.S. history for teachers to pass on to their students.

The summer institute, held August 1-5 at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, is funded by a \$508,663 federal grant, which CPS received in 2010 for the first time. The goal of this prestigious national grant program, is to improve classroom instruction in U.S. history and nurture in students a deeper understanding of America's past.

With this grant money, CPS created an innovative program called *Becoming America: A Nation, A People*, which provides professional development for social studies teachers in grades 9-10.

CPS is partnering with a professional development organization called Facing History and Ourselves, which trains teachers to address historical case studies that give perspective to what led to world events. The University of Cincinnati, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Teachers Curriculum Institute and the Freedom Center also are partners with CPS in this program.

"The *Becoming America* program provides a unique opportunity to bring the best minds in historical thinking and social-studies instruction to Cincinnati, and to build a

***(Continued)***

Mailing Address: Education Center, P.O. Box 5381, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5381  
Location: 2651 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-2551

community of practice among our high school history teachers,” said Carolyn Pedapati, CPS’ social studies curriculum manager. “The program not only builds our district’s capacity to offer rigorous, AP level courses in history, but also equips our teachers to address complex stories in our nation’s past in the classroom and make them relevant to students.”

Speakers include Dr. Mary Johnson, senior historian with Facing History, who will speak Monday, August 1, at the institute about, *“A World Made New — Case Study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”*

The declaration, adopted in 1948 by the fledgling United Nations and championed by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was the first comprehensive agreement among nations addressing the rights of all people.

