



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Applications Now Open for Minnesota Humanities Center's 2019 Educator Institute

Event Connects Educators Passionate About Bringing About Change in Student Engagement & Achievement

Feb. 13, 2019 - SAINT PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) is seeking applicants to participate in the [2019 Educator Institute](#) on June 16-21, 2019. Each year, teams of educators from across Minnesota gather at MHC to participate in the transformative Institute which is changing the way educators engage their students and interact with their communities. Applications for the Institute are open now until March 14.

Now in its fifth year, the 2019 Educator Institute will welcome up to 40 educators from across the state. This professional development opportunity for all educators (teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and others) builds upon MHC's 40 plus years of working with educators which has led to the Absent Narratives Approach™ to education reform. This approach has proven to be a powerful way of engaging young people in learning, deepening and strengthening relationships, and engaging the community as a critical partner and resource for substantive change—all of which leads to better student achievement.

“This is the best workshop I've attended in my fourteen years of teaching. I've done trainings that give you strategies, I've done diversity trainings... This is nothing like that. This is truly transformative, it soaks you in a new way of being, so when you ask, 'How will this change me?' [You are] changed.”
Derek Wilson, 2016 Educator Institute participant.

Last year's Institute welcomed 10 teams and five individuals from eight Minnesota school districts, one private school, and two community organizations through a competitive selection process.

“The MHC Educator Institute is a one-of-a-kind experience,” says Leondra Burchall, Vice President, MHC. “We bring educators together to tackle one of the state's biggest problems – equity in education. Our strategy is based on understanding and strengthening human relationships. Our application of the humanities changes the narrative around education from success defined by a limited range of tests and subjects to success defined by strong relationships that positively impact student engagement and, ultimately, achievement.”

The Educator Institute is part of MHC's K-12 Education Strategy, which uses a humanities-based approach to closing the achievement gap that Minnesota so desperately needs to address. By working with educators, students, parents and the community, MHC focuses on closing a “relationship gap” that lies beneath the achievement gap.

“Our work in the Educator Institute is to explore relationship gaps rather than an achievement gap,” says Institute Content Lead, Heid E. Erdrich. “Each of us can build new ways to relate to others in our

communities. That's the magic of it — our ability to reach across what divides us is a strength totally within each of us. This is heart work and head work and, well, it works. We see real change.”
For more information about the Educator Institute and offerings of MHC’s K-12 Education Strategy visit <http://www.mnhum.org/mned>.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center:

Founded in 1971, the Minnesota Humanities Center is a statewide nonprofit organization and full service event center located in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Humanities Center offers a new way to think about our future, grounded in the humanities, and collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop programs that facilitate and frame conversations and strengthen connections. The Humanities Center works to bring into public life the authentic voices of all people, especially those that have been absent or marginalized. The Humanities Center is a resource for the state of Minnesota and is affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The mission of the Minnesota Humanities Center is to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society. More information about the Humanities Center is available at mnhum.org or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###

Contact:

Elle Lyons, Director of Communications, elle@mnhum.org 651-772-4251



Minnesota Humanities Center
987 IVY AVENUE EAST
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

OFFICE : 651-774-0105
FAX : 651-774-0205
EVENT CENTER : 651-772-4242
TOLL FREE : 866-268-7293

