

**PR Award #:** S422B220011

**Organization Name:** National Council for History Education

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Abstract: Equality and Power in Civics and Histories (EPiC Histories)

National Council for History Education

The National Council for History Education (NCHE), in partnership with the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), the History Department at Wayne State University (WSU), and the American Bar Association (ABA), proposes Equality and Power in Civics and Histories (EPiC Histories). Designed specifically to support teachers in Wayne County, Michigan, EPiC Histories asks: (1) How do Americans understand and respond to the concepts of equality, power, and civic responsibility in specific contexts and across time; (2) What do justice and civic engagement mean to different people in specific contexts; and (3) How do sometimes competing visions of justice have an impact on American life?

Project EPiC Histories will provide Innovative Professional Development in American History, Civics and Government, and Geography and Innovative Activities for Civic Engagement with the goal of expanding the American narrative through a recognition of diverse and evolving histories. EPiC Histories' professional learning will help teachers emphasize discipline-specific literacy practices, explore democratic values, and consider the role of civic action and democratic deliberation in the past and in contemporary contexts. With our partners, we will engage participants in an examination of how broadening narratives, incorporating multiple perspectives, and engaging deeply in source analysis helps students think about the larger human experience while connecting the past to the present and to our future through civic action.

The National Activities Program, EPiC Histories, will provide professional development for 55 participants: 50 teachers from grade levels K – 8 and five (5) administrative leaders for a period of five years. Educators will participate in webinars, weekend seminars, place-based learning, history colloquia, and summer excursions as they explore diverse histories.