Engaging Students in Inquiry and Discussion on International Issues: A Choices Program Working Conference

June 26-28, 2017

Charles Hayden Library, Tabor Academy, Marion, MA

Monday, June 26:
Optional Preconference: Introduction to the Choices Program (For educators new to Choices curriculum units)

8:30
Registration and refreshments. Pick up room card.

9:00-9:30
Welcome, Introductions and Overview

9:30-10:15
Block 1: Choices Pedagogy for an Inquiry-based Classroom
Essential Question: What is the Choices approach for teaching about contested issues? How do we facilitate *deliberative dialogue* in the classroom? Activity: Values exercise and modifications

Break

10:30-11:00
Block 2: Student Text
Essential Question: How do I facilitate access to the rich content in the Student Text for all reading levels? Activity: Demonstration of reading activities and discussion of strategies

11:00-1:00
Block 3: Teacher Resources
Essential Question: What lessons accompany the unit, and how do I make them work in my classroom? Activity: Demonstration of selected lessons in the unit. Discussion of modifications and strategies for implementation.

1:00-2:00
Lunch – Johnson Dining Room

2:00-3:30
Block 4: Options Role Play and Personal Option
Essential Question: What is the pedagogy behind the Options Role Play? How do I make it work with my students? How do I prepare my students?
Activity: Conduct the role play. Discuss preparing students and modifying the role play.

5:00
Opening Reception (Cash bar) and Dinner At President's House
Welcome by Tabor Academy Anne Gardiner, History Department Chair

Tuesday, June 27: Implementing Choices In *Your* Curriculum: A Working Day

7:30-8:30
Breakfast at Tabor Dining Hall

9:00-10:30 **U.S- Iran Relations One Year after the Iranian Nuclear Deal: Progress and Problems**
Content session by a Brown University Faculty Member, TBA

Break

10:45-3:15 (Break for lunch, 12-1)
Small group work to *Road Map* two Choices units into your curriculum
Activity: Examine, plan and discuss modifications and implementation of selected lessons from two Choices units (provided). Unit titles are tentative and subject to change. ***Choose one group:***

a) U.S. History (Pardo)
The Limits of Power: The United States in Vietnam
Freedom Now: The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi

b) World History (Gardiner)
Iran Through the Looking Glass: History, Reform and Revolution
Nigeria unit, Title Forthcoming

c) Geography/Current Issues (Stephens)
U.S. Immigration Policy in an Unsettled World
Confronting Genocide: Never Again Genocide

d) Civics or Government? (Sousa)
Responding to Terrorism: Challenges for Democracy
A More Perfect Unit: American Independence and the Constitution

4:00 Optional Beach or Volleyball Time

6:00 Dinner Cookout on the Beach

Wednesday, June 28th: Choices Throw Down Day!

7:30 – 8:30
Breakfast

8:30 -10:00
Meet the Choices Writing Team: How Does Choices Create Its Curriculum?
A presentation and discussion on how the Choices Program writing team creates content, including a discussion of Choices new *Standards for Systematic Review of Diversity and Accessibility* rubric.

10:15-11:30
Small Group Working and Sharing Sessions: Presentations, Discussions, Demonstrations led by experienced users of Choices Program's materials
Tentative Workshop Topics to Choose From:
Writing Assessments and Choices
Accessing Choices: Reading Strategies for Struggling Readers
Teaching A Foreign Policy Elective Using Choices as a Basis
Adapting Choices to the Middle School Classroom
Using Choices in a Model U.N Program
Addressing Historical Thinking Skills Using the Choices Program materials
Choices and the AP Human Geography Classroom
Facilitating Deliberative Dialogue
Free Social Studies Resources For Every Classroom
The Choices Program's New Digital Curriculum

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30- 1:45
Next Round of Small Group Working and Sharing Sessions
(See list above for 10:15 am)

2:00
Afternoon Competition: Choices Throw Down!
Come and present your best modification or adaptation of the Choices Role Play, a Perspectives Activity, the Personal Option, or any Choices lesson! The winner will take home a $200 credit in the Choices store for personal or school use!
Selected ideas will be presented (and credited) on the Choices Program's blogsite.

3:15 - End