

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the U.S. Department of Education has approved a \$961,290 grant for the Broome, Delaware, Tioga BOCES-SCI center through the Teaching American History Grants Program.

“As a lifelong student of American History, I am thrilled to announce this grant to help Southern Tier schools provide their students with the best possible American History courses,” said Arcuri. “In Congress, I have made it a top priority to ensure our teachers, parents, and schools have the resources they need to provide our children with the best education. In today’s constantly changing and expanding world, a solid history foundation is an essential part of the curriculum for students from kindergarten to high school.”

The “Teaching American History in the Southern Tier” collaborative project is designed to address a gap in teaching and learning in American History by engaging the resources of SUNY Binghamton and several educational institutions with K-12 teachers in 24 school districts, including several schools under NCLB improvement status, located in Broome-Tioga and Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) districts.

In light of analysis of performance data from standardized state assessments administered at 5th, 8th and 11th grades to the districts’ 51,000 students, this grant program has three goals: to increase the regional capacity for meaningful differentiated instruction in traditional, standards-based American History; to promote school-university collaboration as a powerful resource for teaching, learning and literacy; and to develop and pilot a replicable, data-driven model for continuous improvement in the teaching and learning of American History.

“Local Universities are invaluable resources in our communities and I am proud to see that SUNY Binghamton will be a partner with local schools. I will continue to fight for the resources our schools in Upstate New York need to grow our economy and raise the next generation of leaders,” said Arcuri.

Activities under the “Teaching American History in the Southern Tier” program would include: five one-week summer workshops offered over three years; workshops held at schools or during superintendents’ days; a book circle; a documentary film series; conferences during the school year; and graduate courses specifically adapted to meet teachers’ needs. This program will also include an evaluation to measure the success of professional development activities in

improving student performance.

The Department of Education's Teaching American History Grant Program is designed to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge and understanding of and appreciation for traditional U.S. History. Grant awards assist Local Education Associations (LEAs) in partnership with entities that have content expertise to develop, document, evaluate and disseminate innovative and cohesive models of professional development.

Since taking office in January, Arcuri has voted for, and the House has passed, legislation to improve and reauthorize the national Head Start program, add thousands of highly qualified K-12 math and science teachers to schools, cut in half the interest rates on federal subsidized student loans, and increase Pell Grant awards to expand access to higher education.

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