



STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

April 30, 2002

Mr. Allan Kullen, President  
People of America Foundation  
5760 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Allan:

On behalf of the Department, I want you to know that we are very pleased that Vermont has been chosen as one of the pilot sites for the People of America's Americans All Project. The support that this project has received from all of the major education organizations within the state as well as from all our school districts has clearly demonstrated our commitment to this effort.

I have enclosed the Implementation Plan for Americans All® Vermont. We have decided that it will be more efficient for the Vermont Historical Society to serve as Vermont's fiscal agent and that we will jointly manage the program with them. In this way, we can draw on their expertise in the collection of the data and use our own personnel to ensure that the curriculum needs of our students are best served.

Please advise us as soon as full funding has been obtained for Vermont so that we can begin implementation of the program.

Thank you again for your confidence in us and we look forward to working with the Foundation very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Chiappetta".

Doug Chiappetta  
Director  
Educator and School Quality

cc: Amy Cunningham, VHS  
Doug Walker, Deputy Commissioner

## **Implementation Plan for Americans All® Vermont**

### **Background**

The People of America Foundation, established in October 1995, is a 501(c)(9), publicly supported, nonprofit organization. It succeeds the Coordinating Committee for Ellis Island, founded in 1983 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, that developed and marketed the Americans All® Resource Materials.

Americans All® is a national education program that provides teachers, students and parents with comparative information, previously unavailable, about six ethnic and/or cultural groups that helped build our nation—Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Mexican Americans and Puerto Rican Americans. More than 2,000 schools and libraries use this information, and the Foundation still sells the materials to education organizations and the public.

KPMG Peat Marwick files annual tax returns for the People of America Foundation.

### **Mission, Goals and Philosophy of the People of America Foundation**

*Mission.* Our nation is not homogeneous, so its political history cannot serve as its shared cultural history. The Foundation aims to collect, organize, distribute and maintain, at no cost to the public, the largest and most inclusive electronic database on the history of the peopling of the United States.

*Goals.* The Foundation will develop national, state-specific and cultural databases that provide accurate social and political histories, as well as generic, thematic lesson units and individual lesson plans, to help educators meet the requirements of new standards-based instructional guidelines. Social studies professionals in each state and the District of Columbia will create these inclusive, content-rich databases and instructional units and lesson plans.

*Philosophy.* Underlying the Foundation's mission is the concept that, for any field or area of specialization, all information physically exists but is not universally accessible to all its members. And, even if the data were accessible, unless it is organized and delivered in a form that can be easily understood and used, the information has limited value.

Effective 05/17/02



## **Support for the People of America Foundation**

The Foundation's mission is recognized and supported by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, it has established strategic partnerships with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the National Association for Elementary School Principals (NAESP), the National Middle School Association (NMSA), the Council of State Social Studies Specialists (CS4) and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc). The boards of other major education organizations are reviewing the Foundation's request for recognition and support.

The Foundation has also been endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and its mission and goals have gained the recognition and/or support of the National Social Studies Supervisors Association (NSSSA), the National Education Association (NEA), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), the American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO (AFSA), Social Science Education Consortium, Inc., the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO (I.U.P.A.), National History Day (NHD), Empower America and the National Retired Teachers Association. Many of these organizations have chosen not endorse or fully participate in this initiative as strategic partners because their bylaws or a decision of their board of directors precludes such participation.

## **Pilot Registration and State Support**

Besides the work being done in Vermont, the Foundation is operating grassroots pilot programs in three other states. In North Dakota the Foundation has received support from public and private schools representing more than 83 percent of registered students. All major education organizations within the state support the program. North Dakota State University will manage Americans All® North Dakota.

In Nevada the Foundation has received support from public and large nonpublic schools representing more than 65 percent of registered students. Many major education organizations within the state support and/or recognize Americans All®. The program will most likely be managed by a partnership between the Nevada Cultural Arts Foundation and the Nevada Public Education Foundation.

In New York, because of its size, the Foundation is piloting the program in a single district, the Nassau Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES), on Long Island. The effort has just recently begun, but the Foundation has already received support from public schools representing more than 55 percent of registered students. This portion of Americans All® New York will be managed by the Nassau BOCES, which will establish an operational plan that can be replicated elsewhere in the state.



### **Current Status of Americans All® Vermont**

In Vermont the People of America Foundation has received support from public and approved independent schools representing more than 65 percent of registered students. Americans All® Vermont has received support and/or recognition from the Vermont Department of Education (Ray McNulty, Commissioner); the Vermont Historical Society (Ann Cunningham, Director of Education); The Vermont Folklife Center (Jane C. Beck, Executive Director, and Gregory Sharrow, Director of Education); the Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies (Elise A. Guyette, President); The University of Vermont (Paul Eschholz, Director, Center for Research on Vermont and Vermont Studies Program, and Kristin Peterson-Ishaq, Coordinator, Center for Research on Vermont and Vermont Studies Program); the Shelburne Museum (Catherine Woods Brooks, Director of Education, and Karen E. Peterson, Associate Director of Education); the Champlain Valley Education Consortium (Darlene H. Worth, Director of Curriculum, South Burlington School District); and D. Joseph Davison (former Christa McAuliffe fellow). All letters of support and/or recognition are on file with the Vermont Department of Education.

### **Desired Partnership for Vermont Implementation**

The program will be managed by a partnership between the Vermont Department of Education (VTDOE)—[www.state.vt.us/educ](http://www.state.vt.us/educ)—and the Vermont Historical Society (VHS)—[www.state.vt.us/vhs](http://www.state.vt.us/vhs). VTDOE derives its powers and duties from those of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education. The department operates under the *State Board of Education's Manual of Rules and Practices*. The rules aim to ensure all students in Vermont public schools are afforded educational opportunities that are substantially equal in quality. They also seek to enable them to achieve or exceed the expectations set forth in *Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities*.

The rules promote continuous improvement in student performance and the provision of high-quality programs to enable students to attain rigorous standards. They “establish a transitional system for measuring improvement in student performance in order to identify schools that may encounter difficulty in providing a high quality of education” . . . “and a system for providing technical assistance to such schools” (Rules 2000 and 2100).

The Vermont Historical Society, founded in 1838 by an act of the state legislature, is an independent membership organization governed by a board of trustees. VHS's mission is “to collect, preserve and interpret Vermont history for the use, education and enjoyment of present and future generations.” VHS is the only institution in the state that collects artifacts and documents reflecting the entire history of the state. To accomplish this, the Society operates a museum that creates exhibits; borrows and lends objects for display; sponsors public programs throughout the state; provides services, training and resources for students, educators and local historical societies; operates a research library; publishes periodicals and books that promote research and disseminate information about Vermont history; and collaborates with other educational and cultural organizations to make Vermont's past accessible to the public.



The overarching goal of VHS is to assume a statewide leadership role in promoting an understanding of Vermont history. It does so by improving and expanding public access to its collections and by expanding its interpretive and educational efforts.

To meet its goal of increased public accessibility, the Society has identified five major priorities:

- to facilitate the teaching of Vermont history by producing the educational materials and outreach programs necessary for all schools in the state;
- to support the work of local historical societies by providing technical assistance and forums that encourage collaboration among these societies;
- to develop the Internet as an educational outreach tool;
- to make the resources of VHS more accessible to wider audiences by producing exhibitions, publications and programming that interpret the collections and utilize new research; and
- to promote Vermont history through heritage tourism initiatives.

VHS is expanding and relocating some of its operations. On the first floor of the Pavilion Building in Montpelier, where the Society's library, offices and museum are currently located, VHS will create:

- an introductory exhibition on Vermont history, *Freedom & Unity: One Ideal/Many Stories*;
- classroom and orientation space for educational outreach programming for schoolchildren and for visitors to the state's capital and the State House; and
- an expanded museum store.

VHS's other operations are moving into the Vermont History Center, formerly the Spaulding Graded School in Barre, Vermont. This newly renovated 60,000-square-foot building will house the research library, collections storage, study space for the collections, changing exhibit space, a hands-on history gallery, administrative offices and an education and conference center.

The Vermont History Center will provide the space and access to collections needed to initiate new educational programs, such as teachers' workshops, hands-on "discover history" courses, summer "history camps" for students, and educational programs designed for use with changing exhibits. Americans All® Vermont is one of the new opportunities that will enable VHS to promote an understanding of Vermont history.

VHS, because of its experience in fiscal matters and in operating programs of this type, will serve as the fiscal agent for Americans All® Vermont. Once the program is established, an advisory council will be created with representatives from all supporting organizations within the state. The management of the program will be decided at the time of funding. Either two co-directors or a single director with two assistant directors will supervise the program. One individual will coordinate VHS's data-collection efforts and one will be the curriculum liaison with VTDOE and be responsible for curriculum and standards issues.



Management personnel will supervise the development of the state's Web sites to ensure content is included that specifically relates to *Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities* and ensure the sites contain all of the data collected by program staff. The goal is to meet the information needs of the state's K-12 school students as well as the information needs of other residents and visitors to the state or to the state's Web sites for the program. The curriculum co-director will be responsible for preparing the deliverables to the schools—the state-specific timeline, poster and photograph collection.

Once funded, the People of America Foundation will grant VHS \$1,184,499. The Foundation's national staff will include full-time employees to help each state obtain additional or matching funds as may be appropriate and available. Although the Foundation will provide Vermont with program planning guidelines, the implementation structure and methodology will be at the state's discretion. In addition to the public school districts and the approved independent schools and kindergartens, where possible, the state will include all recognized independent schools and technical schools. The state program will take four years to complete.

The People of America Foundation will not begin the next stage of the program unless full funding for each state is assured prior to start-up. Start-up is activated when more than 50 percent of the schools (or students) in a state have enrolled with the Foundation. Funds for each state will be kept in an escrow account and released on a benchmark-based schedule, prepared in advance by the state, to meet its implementation obligations. The state will always have a draw against the next benchmark to ensure it has operating funds at all times.

### **School Responsibilities**

For schools, this program is an opportunity, not an obligation. To participate in the Foundation's program, for which there is no cost, a school must verify its enrollment because the quantity and composition of materials each school will receive as a gift from the Foundation depends on its student enrollment. Each school must also provide the Foundation with the names of at least two teachers who will serve as liaisons to ensure the program materials will be put to maximum use. Teacher names will not be published nor made available to commercial list brokers, but will only be given upon written request to state social studies supervisors to assist in their staff development efforts.

In addition to making schools eligible to receive Americans All® Resource Materials, school registration affords principals funds for staff development. This will enable school personnel to learn how to use the materials most effectively. Enrollment also qualifies the school to receive a biweekly newspaper and future publications prepared under grants to the Foundation and to have access to instructional and teacher learning sites not available to the general public. Further, registration enables teachers and principals to gain national recognition for posting effective, school-developed lesson plans on the Foundation's Web sites.



## **Outcomes of the State and National Programs**

The People of America Foundation will ultimately host 153 coordinated Web sites, three for each state and three for the District of Columbia—for elementary school, middle school and high school. These will be organized in several ways, including, for example, by subject, by topic and in relation to standards. When all state activity is complete, the Foundation will consolidate all of the state Web sites into three major national sites—for elementary school-, middle school- and high school-level instruction. It will also consolidate the state information into national ethnic and/or cultural databases.

Each state must provide, in print form, a state-specific timeline, poster and photograph collection; the development and production costs for these materials are already figured into the grant. Other deliverables will be at the sole discretion of the state and will meet local objectives. The state will hold all copyrights on materials it produces, subject to prior and existing copyrights. Each state will also grant the Foundation permission to upload all information that has been gathered by the state onto the national Web sites, regardless of whether this information is delivered to the state's schools in print format.

The composite national Web sites will be "closed"; individuals can link to the sites from any location on the Web but cannot link out to another site without shutting down their browser. Therefore, the site, which will also be password-protected on each computer terminal, prevent users—mostly students—from making unsupervised visits to, or transfers from, other sites, for example, those containing games or pornography. The schools can easily monitor site activity.

## **Vision and Goals of Americans All® Vermont**

*Vision:* To develop content-rich and user-friendly Web sites and supporting materials that contain primary sources, lesson plans, assessments, and other resources that accurately depict Vermont's diverse cultural history and to provide professional development to Vermont Educators on the use of these Web sites and supporting materials.

### *Goals:*

- To identify materials and resources that accurately depict Vermont's diverse cultural history.
- To provide Vermont Educators with the content-rich, standards-based materials, resources and professional development they need to teach Vermont history.
- To facilitate the collaboration of various historical groups throughout Vermont.
- To promote the use of primary sources as a teaching tool.



## **Schedule and Potential Operating Plan for Vermont**

Under terms of the agreement between VHS and VTDOE, VHS will serve as the Foundation's fiscal agent in Vermont. VHS and VTDOE will jointly supervise the program as the management entity. Before moving forward with implementation, however, the state must receive word from the Foundation that funds have been secured.

As soon as funding is secured, VHS and VTDOE will:

- establish a steering committee composed of individuals and organizations endorsing the program, members of VHS and VTDOE, and additional educators and administrators, as needed;
- hire a full-time program director (or two co-directors) and necessary staff;
- finish developing an organizational structure for the program that will facilitate the identification of resources and allow for user-friendly access (e.g., Framework themes and National Standards themes);
- collaborate with local historical societies, schools and other organizations to provide access to primary documents that show the diversity of Vermont. (e.g., The Vermont Folklife Center and The University of Vermont, Center for Research on Vermont and Vermont Studies Program);
- contact directors of other program sites and coordinate efforts on program implementation;
- work, with Foundation assistance, to establish the framework for the three Vermont Web sites and upload the instructional frameworks and all standards requirements;
- begin linking all existing materials to the Web sites;
- begin working on ethnic histories and missing data needed to fill out the Web sites, using resources within the state;
- develop a state-specific timeline, poster and photograph collection to document the people and cultures that have shaped Vermont;
- establish criteria and identify instructional units, lesson plans, and other resources related to Vermont history;
- provide resources, materials and professional development on how to use primary sources as a teaching tool;
- promote collaboration among VHS, VTDOE, local historical societies, schools, universities, libraries and other organizations in the teaching of Vermont's history;
- establish a process for continued management and upkeep of the Web site; and
- work with the People of America Foundation to seek additional resources to continue program, Web site and professional staff development.