

International Studies Summer Institutes for Teachers

Cuba in the 21st Century

Havana—Cienfuegos—Pinar del Río Educational Trip

June 18-June 26, 2013

Organized by FACDIS

The West Virginia Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies

Application Deadline: April 8, 2013

This summer program will take participants on a nine-day, eight-night tour of Cuba, exploring its rich historic and cultural past, its transformation in the last half-century, and its complex relationship with the United States over more than a century. Participants will acquire teaching resources relating to the history, economics, education, politics, and culture of this important Caribbean island nation. Among the locations visited will be Havana, Cienfuegos, and Pinar del Río. Included will be meetings with Cuban artists, students, historians, small business owners, diplomats, musicians, physicians, economists, and dancers.

Leading the tour will be experienced guides from Cuban Educational Travel as well as FACDIS Director, Dr. Jack Hammersmith, and Assistant FACDIS Director, Gretchen Peterec.

What will teachers receive?

The trip includes airfare to and from Cuba from Miami, airport transfers, lodging, ground transportation, most meals, entrance fees, guides (though not gratuities), Cuban insurance and visa, and wide-ranging educational activities. Participants will be asked to contribute \$800 with FACDIS paying the remainder or approximately \$2,200. In addition to the \$800, participant costs will also include airfare to Miami and hotel accommodations for Tuesday, June 18. The tentative itinerary accompanies this e-mail.

What are the costs to teachers?

As indicated above, participants are asked to pay a portion of the trip (see above), \$200 of which is a non-refundable/administrative fee. We need to receive your check for \$100 by April 8; it is non-refundable, if the applicant is chosen for the trip. The additional \$700 will be due in two payments, specific deadlines to be determined by the WVU Offices of International Programs and Extended Learning. We will provide that information to you at the earliest possible date.

Three hours of professional development graduate credit will be available through West Virginia University, for a cost to the teacher of \$167 for the three hours.

Participants must possess a valid passport with at least six months remaining on it at the time of departure.

In addition to the Cuban insurance, participants must purchase international health insurance through the West Virginia University Office of International Programs. Further information will be provided in the acceptance packet.

In addition, teachers must cover costs of transportation to/from Miami, a few meals, optional tour activities, the Cuban airport departure tax (25 CUC—roughly \$US 25), and other personal costs.

Selection of participants:

In the likely event that more teachers apply than can be accepted, the personal statements/essays will be highly important factors in the final selection process. Applicants may want to discuss how the experience in Cuba will affect classes and curriculum (being as specific as possible); evidence of any relevant teaching experiences (e.g., teaching awards, classroom teaching innovations, etc.) and professional goals and values which the opportunity may enhance and/or fulfill. An additional requirement is a statement by a supervisor (principal or superintendent) confirming employment for the 2013-2014 academic year. Teachers who have met their past academic responsibilities with FACDIS will be given additional consideration. The trip will be limited to seventeen participants.

Participation requirements:

Participants who are selected will be required to complete a confidential health form and to submit a physician's statement, requirements of the WVU Office of International Programs. Also required will be the purchase of international insurance through the WVU OIP at minimal cost.

Course requirements:

As a follow-up to the trip, teachers will be required to submit lesson plans for a curriculum unit on Cuba, and should teach it in their classes as appropriate during the year. Lesson plans should cover a minimum of five to seven regular class periods. Those plans will be due in the FACDIS Office by August 2, 2013.

Responsibility:

West Virginia University (WVU) and FACDIS serve only to assist in arranging travel for its participating constituents and does not in any way represent or act as agent for transportation carriers and other suppliers of services connected with this tour. Travel and services are subject only to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services and transportation are offered or provided, and WVU and the travel agency are not liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect or any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses caused by sickness, weather, strikes, wars, natural disasters, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. WVU and the authorized travel agency reserve the right to change the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants. They also reserve the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the appropriate tour leader to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participants. The contracted travel

agency also reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, included, but not limited to tours based on a minimum number of participants.

Applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the deadline of their acceptance. Having already sent a non-refundable check for \$100, accepted applicants will then need to send their payments according to a schedule to be provided as soon as possible by the WVU Offices of International Programs and Extended Learning.