



NREA Update

National Rural Education Association

The Voice of Rural Schools and Communities



2020 Weekly Newsletter # 2

50 States in 50 Weeks Highlight: Alabama Rural

50 STATES IN 50 WEEKS

ALABAMA


ALSO KNOWN AS THE
YELLOWHAMMER
STATE

22ND
STATE TO JOIN
THE UNION



52,419
MILES SQUARE

ALABAMA HAS
116
RURAL AND
SMALL SCHOOLS

256,000
STUDENTS ATTEND
AN ALABAMA
RURAL SCHOOL



50 STATES IN 50 WEEKS
IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



“I Am a Rural Teacher” gives voice to rural teachers

Teacher-To-Teacher Conversations: Teachers may join the public Facebook group called “I am a Rural Teacher!” where they can share photos, stories, curriculum ideas, and teaching experiences. [Join our group.](#)

Advocating for Rural Teachers

“I am a Rural Teacher!” narratives showcase the perspectives of rural educators. Read the [viewpoints and recommendations](#) of rural teachers.

Rural Teacher Recruitment Efforts

Our [RTC Network](#) and related efforts are committed to purposeful teacher recruitment strategies with an emphasis on social justice and inclusive community development.

Announcing the inaugural winners of the Whippoorwill Award for Young Adult Literature that Authentically Represents Rural People and Places

The whippoorwill is a bird known for its distinct song that fills many remote spaces. The Whippoorwill Award takes on this bird’s name as a way to honor young adult literature that sings the authentic stories of rural people and places. The Whippoorwill Award's mission is to advocate for books that portray the complexity of rural living by dispelling stereotypes and demonstrating diversity among rural people. This year is the first year for the Whippoorwill Award. The winners for 2019 and more information about the award can be found [here](#).

What it Takes to Keep Independent Grocery Stores Open in Rural Communities

When rural grocery stores shutter, communities lose more than their only source of food. We visited two small groceries in North Dakota that have found innovative ways to keep the lights on. <https://civileats.com/2020/01/07/what-it-takes-to-keep-independent-grocery-stores-open-in-rural-communities/>

Daily Yonder:

Investments in Climate Action Could Boost Rural Economies, Research Finds

Researchers believe rural America may be the key to some of the most effective climate change mitigation practices. Among the proposed initiatives are increasing soil health and sequestering carbon, renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements, and access to broadband. By [Jan Pytalski](#)
<https://www.dailyyonder.com/investments-in-climate-action-could-boost-rural-economies-research-finds/2020/01/17/>

Rural energy program benefits South Dakota businesses

By Heidi Kolbeck-Urlacher policy assistant Center for Rural Affairs
https://www.capjournal.com/opinions/rural-energy-program-benefits-south-dakota-businesses/article_80b6f706-38b0-11ea-a2b9-331b225d84b3.html

Summer Seminars and Institutes are 1- to 4-week residential programs for either [K-12 educators](#) OR [higher education faculty](#). They support collegial study of significant topics in the humanities and make use of important scholarship and primary resources such as documents, artifacts, or historic sites. Typically, participants develop a project that translates the topic of study into their classroom teaching and/or scholarship.

Deadlines for Seminars and Institutes in Summer 2021

Optional Draft due [February 12, 2020](#)

Final Application due [March 3, 2020](#)

[Register here for a pre-application Seminars and Institutes webinar](#)

Friday, January 24, 2020 at 2:00 pm EST

Call or email us with questions:

sem-inst@neh.gov

Free Opportunity for AP Teachers: Civic Knowledge & Action Project

The [Civic Knowledge and Action Project](#) is a collaboration of the College Board's Advanced Placement® Program and [DoSomething.org](#), a nonpartisan nonprofit focused on youth-led volunteering initiatives, to develop opportunities for students to make a difference in their local communities. Through the project, AP US Government and Politics and AP with WE Service teachers will be able to help students participate in the real-world application of their course content by leading voter registration drives in their schools or promoting census activities.

What Teachers Get:

- An optional applied civics lesson plan and two optional course projects provided by the AP Program that meet the project curricular requirement provided by the AP Program.
- A free voter registration toolkit and webinar-based trainings provided by DoSomething that includes everything students need to run a local nonpartisan voter registration drive.
- Materials created by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) to lead census participation efforts

All content is nonpartisan and will help to meet AP curricular requirements. If you're interested in having your students pursue this opportunity, click [Civic Knowledge and Action Project](#) or visit www.dosomething.org/startteacher4, which will redirect you to the DoSomething site.

In late January, participating teachers will be able to access the classroom materials via AP Central®, and the DoSomething toolkits will be mailed to your school.

If you have any questions, please contact CivicActionProject@collegeboard.org.