



WILLIAM & MARY

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY
AND DEMOCRACY

Winter 2017

Dear Educator:

The National Institute of American History and Democracy (NIAHD), a joint project of the College of William & Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, invites your students to apply to our **NIAHD Pre-College Summer Program in Early American History**. The highly successful Pre-College Program accepts students who will be rising juniors, rising seniors, and graduating seniors by this summer. Students earn four hours of college credit for an exciting, in-depth study in early American history. In the past 15 summers we have enrolled more than 1,600 students from 46 states, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and South America. We hope you will announce our program and extend our invitation to your college-bound students.

We will offer **two three-week sessions: June 25-July 15, 2016 and July 16-August 5, 2016**. Students may take either of the following courses in either session:

HIS 217: American History from Jamestown through the American Revolution.

HIS 218: American History from the American Revolution through the Civil War.

Students will study early American history “**on site**” through the **use of historic places**, including surviving structures, archaeology sites, and museums. Students will participate in daily discussion seminars, analyze readings by acclaimed scholars, expand their analytical writing skills in weekly themes, and compare and contrast historic sites with interpretations by renowned historians. Students will live in a dorm and experience campus life under the guidance of a large William & Mary staff.

We seek **highly motivated students** who demonstrate a commitment to learning, curiosity about the past, excellent analytical ability, good writing skills, and the potential to thrive in a competitive, structured, discussion-class format. A particular background in American history is not required. An open mind, independent thinking, creativity, and a spirit of adventure are the essential ingredients.

Enclosed is our program poster. We hope you will post it for your students. Students may visit our web site at www.wm.edu/niahd to download applicable forms including the Application, Teacher Recommendation form, Financial Aid form, and In-State Domicile form. The application requires a short essay plus an official high school transcript. Partial scholarships based on demonstrated need are available. We hope you will encourage students who possess a genuine interest in American history to apply to this exciting, challenging, stimulating, and rewarding program.

Sincerely,

Julie Richter, Ph.D.
Interim Director
National Institute of American History and Democracy