

ABSTRACT

eduWeavers invites educators from across the United States to join us in a carefully crafted journey of service, learning, and partnership in South Africa. Bringing together an alliance of US and South African government and independent organization, this journey will serve the needs of educators from both countries. Participants will learn from participatory discussions with South African teachers, lectures from leading South African scholars and leaders in the field of education, and interactions with their peers in home and school settings. In the process, you will add value to your classroom in terms of content, methodology, and new perspectives. You will act as teachers as well as learners, sharing your expertise with South African teachers in your pedagogical or content area. Finally, together with your South African peers you will learn about the theory and practice of school-to-school partnership from experts in the field and from administrators and teachers who have enjoyed great success in interacting across international borders.

The purpose of this proposed trip is to bring together American and South African teachers to exchange ideas, experiences, and classroom practices in environments mediated by South African universities and museums. These mini-conferences will be hosted by the Luthuli Museum (focusing on oral history, everyday stories and struggles, and social justice in the curriculum), the Natal Museum (local histories and science), eSibonisweni School and the Manguzi School District (technology and international partnerships) and the University of the Western Cape's Center for Humanities (interdisciplinarity and pedagogy/history and the humanities). The participants will be history teachers and other educators who teach about the past. Following each mini-conference, there will be extensive planned opportunities for participants from the two countries to work together, to observe, and to teach as well as assistance in establishing long-term relationships. U.S. participants will also have the opportunity to spend a week working with a South African teacher in a classroom in the Western Cape province. Finally, participants will also be assisted in developing long-term partnerships not merely through "meeting" colleagues from another country but also by observing the successful partnership projects hosted by eSibonsiweni and the Manguzi School District and by hearing from experts on the topic of the logistics and philosophy of reciprocal exchange.

Key topics and themes

During the trip, participants will experience presentations, workshops, and discussions with leaders in their field on topics including:

1. Technology in the classroom and across the world
2. Oral history and local heritage curricula and practice
3. International school partnerships and the sciences – from the classroom to the field and the community
4. Teaching social justice and ethics in post-crisis communities
5. Everyday stories and everyday struggles in human and civil rights

6. Interdisciplinary teaching across the humanities and social sciences
7. Education policy and practice in South Africa and the United States
8. Pedagogy and classroom management

OUTCOMES

This project, like all good projects, is intended to benefit all of its primary participants (US and South African) and a wider cohort of students and teachers as well.

1. A primary task of US participants will be the collection of curricula, documents, oral histories, and other materials relating to the eight key topics and themes. The participants will also be required to prepare and deliver at least one paper themselves at one of the four mini conferences. Finally, the project directors will undertake to collect copies of the talks delivered to the participants. These will all be collated into a hard copy file for participants to take away with them.
2. In addition, copies of all of these documents will be digitized and made generally available on a website and content management system called DIVA developed by San Francisco State University.
3. The project director will also offer this document for publication by the provincial/state and national Departments of Education in the US and South Africa, or failing that by a non-profit educational publisher.
4. School-to-school partnerships formed during this project will be eligible for ongoing support.

AGENDA

This is a working agenda at this point

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| Wed. July 21 | Arrive in Durban, welcome by US Embassy and opening dinner |
| 22 | Stay in Pietermaritzburg, workshops hosted by Natal Museum |
| 23 | Local teacher matchups in classrooms |
| 24 | Drive to Stanger, Tour and workshops hosted by Luthuli Museum |
| 25 | Free day in St. Lucia Estuary area with ecology tours offered |
| 26 | Arrive in Manguzi Meetings with teachers and administrators |
| 27 | Manguzi workshops. |
| 28 | School visits in Manguzi area |
| 29 | Return to Durban, fly to Cape Town |
| 30-Aug 2 | Experiences hosted by Robben Island Museum, District Six Museum, Lwandle Migrant Labor Museum, and also optional tours of Stellenbosch Winelands or Cape Point. |
| Aug 3 | Workshop hosted by the University of the Western Cape Center for Humanities Research |

- 4 Group school tours
- 5 Workshop organized by Facing History and Ourselves (US)/Shikaya (SA)
- 6 Discussions on evaluation and moving forward
- 7 Free day, with final dinner at Moyo

SPONSORS AND ALLIES

The strength of this program is in the unique combination of participating sponsors and allied organizations put together.

The institutional home for this project will be **San Francisco State University's** department of history. SFSU will assist in providing support for project planning as well as for digitization of project outcomes. The **University of the Western Cape** is an allied partner educational institution in South Africa that will be providing facilities and support for a mini-conference and for one-week school visits in the Cape Town area at the end of the trip.

Two other South African institutions hosting mini-conferences are the **Natal Museum** in Pietermaritzburg and the **Albert Luthuli Museum** in Stanger. These museums have already built a cohort of local teachers around their own projects who will be local participants.

EduWeavers.org, a non-profit organization promoting international school-to-school partnerships, will provide organizational support and will teach the participants about effective partnering during the mini-conference in **Manguzi School District**. The District and in particular **eSiboniswni School**, a model partner school, will provide facilities for this conference.

Two allied organization, **Facing History and Ourselves** (US) and **Shikaya** (South Africa), have years of experience in working with teachers in the two countries on participatory education techniques, social justice curricula, and methodologies such as oral history. FHAO will provide intellectual support for the trip and the development of outcome material, and together with Shikaya will help to organize school visits and experts for the mini-conferences.

PARTICIPANTS

US Participants

The team of US participants will include high school and middle school teachers in any concentration and area as well as administrators. They will undertake to give papers at one or more workshops and to attend the entirety of the trip.

South African participants

South African teacher-participants in the four locations (Pietermaritzburg, Stanger, Manguzi, Cape Town) will attend one-day mini-conferences and will participate in the activities that follow in each location – either one-day or week-long teacher visits from the US participants.

FOR PARTICIPANTS

What will I experience, contribute, and learn on this trip:

- 1) Democratic South Africa has undertaken innovative experiments in curriculum (including social justice) and classroom practice. You will be in a position to learn about these innovations first hand.
- 2) At the same time, many of South Africa's teachers (whether in urban areas like the Cape Flats region of Cape Town or rural areas like Maputaland in northern Kwa-Zulu Natal) have not had the opportunity to be trained in the cutting-edge classroom practices and content developed by educators in the US. You will have the opportunity to share your knowledge with your South African colleagues through professional presentations.
- 3) *Partnership* is the key to the reciprocal exchange of knowledge. You will have the opportunity to see an 8-year old model partnership between Saint Marks School (San Rafael) and eSibonisweni (Maputaland) . You will hear about the challenges, the opportunities, and the enormous benefits accrued by both schools from the participants themselves. You will also be invited to hear from experts about the development and management of deep, meaningful, long-term partnerships.
- 4) Participants will be given the opportunity to make partnerships with vetted, interested sister-schools in the area through a guided process.
- 5) You will learn about the history and culture of the area from academics and experts in the field.
- 6) Together with your partners, you will collaborate in cutting-edge training in using oral histories and community relationships in your and your partner's communities.