“Central Asia: Crossroads of Civilization”
Fulbright-Hays Curriculum Development Project for rural Arizona and New Mexico College Instructors and High School Teachers

Application Instructions

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) with the University of Arizona Department of Russian and Slavic Studies and Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) are pleased to announce a travel abroad program to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for rural New Mexico and Arizona high school and college educators. Seven high school teachers, five college educators, and three trip leaders will participate in a four-week curriculum development program to Central Asia next summer. The program is funded by a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) grant. Most of the costs – including air travel – will be covered (see below). The program is based on similar successful GPA programs, most recently joint project of CMES and the Maricopa Community College District, a summer 2017 program to Bosnia and Albania.

Central Asia Travel Seminar

This curriculum-building project will take rural New Mexico and Arizona educators to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for four weeks. The dates for the travel abroad portion of the program are still to be determined but will most likely be from early June through early July 2018. The purpose is for educators to study how Central Asia bridges Middle Eastern (Turkic and Persianate) and Russian cultures. They will then develop lessons so as to integrate area studies and language exposure into many segments of the high school/college curriculum. The program’s Scholar Escort is Dr. Naomi Caffee of the University of Arizona Department of Russian and Slavic Studies. Two other trip leaders will assist her: Dr. Erika Derkas, a Sociology and Women’s Studies professor at NMHU, and Dr. Lisa Adeli, CMES Director of Educational Outreach and a Tucson high school teacher.

The program is designed to be academic, experiential, and practical. Participants will learn about the literature, history, geography, cultures, languages, music, art/architecture, and politics of Central Asia – as well as receiving 30 hours of instruction in the Russian language and 10 hours of instruction in Kazakh. Travel, visits to museums and cultural sites, talks by regional scholars, and interaction with local people will give participants experiences and
insights that they can bring back to the classroom – along with photos and cultural artifacts purchased as part of the project. All participants will receive 90 hours of professional development/recertification credit. (Interested educators may receive graduate credit in Russian Studies – but they would have to pay UA reduced-cost summer tuition for the credits.)

**Important Notes on Travel in the Central Asia:**

Although Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are considered safe destinations, political problems could always arise. Uzbekistan, in particular, has sometimes experienced unrest. If this is the case when we are traveling, we may have to substitute a visit to Kyrgyzstan instead. In addition, participants must understand that conditions will sometimes be difficult. Some days will involve long hours of activities, studies, or travel; others will require A LOT of walking. Every effort has been made to ensure comfortable accommodations, but there may be occasional issues, such as malfunctioning air-conditioners or no elevators. You need to be adaptable!

**What Is Expected of Participants:**

**Financial:**

The Fulbright-Hays grant and NMHU/CMES funds will cover overseas airline costs (round-trip flights from a city near you), housing in comfortable hotels or dorms, transportation within the region, some meals, tour guides, speakers, $150 apiece toward the purchase of classroom books/materials, etc.

Participants are expected to provide a cost-share of $1,350, payable in late January. The payment is non-refundable except for the extremely unlikely event in which the trip itself has to be cancelled. Participants will also need to pay for the meals that are not covered, short-term travel insurance (covering medical care, emergency evacuation, repatriation of remains), the cost of visas, and souvenirs/personal expenses.

**Participation:** Participants are expected to:

**Before the trip:**
- attend the online pre-travel workshop sessions in spring 2018
- participate in the online Russian language classes in spring 2018

**During the trip:**
- attend and participate fully in all aspects of the abroad portion of the program

**After the trip:**
- create an extended lesson plan for a class that you teach
- contribute to the Russian and Kazakh language-exposure modules, created by the group, that can be integrated into high school classes OR add language-related material to your college teaching modules
- give a presentation at an educators’ workshop, districtwide PD program, or meeting of a community group
How to Apply

1. Determine your eligibility.

You are eligible to apply for the Central Asia program if you are:

- a high school teacher in either a public or private school who teaches social studies, foreign languages, English, or fine arts OR a community college or university undergraduate instructor of social sciences, English, or fine arts OR a high school or college administrator responsible for planning, conducting, or supervising a program in modern languages or area studies
- teaching in a RURAL area of New Mexico or Arizona (“rural” = outside of the Tucson, Phoenix, or Albuquerque metropolitan areas)
- a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

You are NOT eligible if you:

- do not meet the requirements above
- are planning to retire or leave teaching before May 2020
- have participated in any Fulbright teachers’ program at any time after summer 2016

If you have any questions as to eligibility, contact us before applying.

2. Complete the very short Application Form. Please TYPE your information. We ask that you provide the contact information (not letters of recommendation) for two people who we can contact in support of your application. Recommender #1 must be a superior (principal, department head, etc.). Recommender #2 should be a colleague or instructor familiar with your work, interests, and goals. Note: You do NOT need to provide actual letters of recommendation at this point.

3. Prepare a personal statement: approximately 2-4 pages in length.
An important part of your application will be the personal statement. Please address the following:

- Why are you interested in Central Asia?

- How would you integrate material from the Central Asia program into your teaching?
  Applicants should propose a curriculum project and explain how they would share it with their students and other educators.

- What are your professional goals, and how might they be enhanced though this project? Please include any professional affiliations or experiences that demonstrate your commitment to sharing your knowledge with colleagues.

- What unique experiences or background do you think make you particularly qualified to join this group project?
- What aspects of this trip do you think might be challenging for you, and how do you anticipate overcoming such obstacles?

4. **Submit a resume or CV** that includes information on the courses you teach and/or plan to teach in the future.

5. **Submit all materials** (cover page, personal statement, CV) as email attachments to ederkas@nmhu.edu AND adeli@email.arizona.edu.

**ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED**

The selection committee will meet to choose applicants after the deadline. Chosen applicants must be approved by Fulbright-Hays and will be notified as early as possible. If you have questions about the curriculum-building trip, please contact either Erika Derkas, Professor at New Mexico Highlands University, at ederkas@nmhu.edu or Lisa Adeli, CMES Director of Educational Outreach, at adeli@email.arizona.edu or by phone at 520.621.7904

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

5PM MST, OCTOBER 16, 2017