

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Matthew Frahm and the T.E.P.S. Committee
FROM: Richard G. Brooks
DATE: January 14, 2022
SUBJECT: AHA Annual Meeting and Conference

I would like to thank the committee and the district for providing me the opportunity to attend the American Historical Association's 135 Annual Meeting. The AHA Annual Meeting is the largest and most expansive gathering of historians every year. The latest research in history, sociology, economics, and other social science disciplines is presented and discussed. I have been a member of this professional organization of over twenty years.

This year there was special attention given to the LGBTQ role in historical events that have been part of our curriculum for years. Often this group is underrepresented or completely ignored. The emphasis on reexamining the LGBTQ community and its' history brought into focus the need to present to students a more inclusive and accepting version of history. It also requires a fresh look at the present literature and/or scholarship that is the basis for what we present in classes. This new perspective will influence new textbooks, instructional materials, websites, and other online activities for students K-16.

There was an additional theme in the conference highlighting the need to address the lack of scholarship on indigenous peoples and the impact that oppressive colonization had on their societies. This aligned with the above stated theme of inclusion and the examination of additional perspectives on well established historical topics.

Taken in its entirety the presentations focused on developing new perspectives in history and reexamining the curriculum presently taught in 9-16. While the majority of the presenters are university-based academics it is this very research that drives new publications, curriculum, and instructional objectives at all levels of education.