



2026 Virginia Conference on Introductory History Courses

Friday, August 28, 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 29, 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Virginia Museum of History and Culture

Sponsors

**VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF
HISTORY & CULTURE**

Virginia Museum of History & Culture

NEW
AMERICAN
HISTORY

New American History

All sessions will be held in the ***Robins Family Forum*** unless otherwise noted

Friday, August 28

8:15–9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00–9:15 Welcome

Michael Plumb, *Virginia Museum of History & Culture*

Julia Brookins, *AHA*

Ed Ayers, *Univ. of Richmond*

9:15–10:30 Plenary: America 250 Is Just the Beginning

Moderator: Ed Ayers, *New American History, Univ. of Richmond*

Kelley Fanto Deetz, *James Madison's Montpelier*

Joe Schmidt, *The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; President, National Council for the Social Studies*

Christy S. Coleman, *Jamestown Yorktown Foundation*

10:30–10:45 Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Regional Program

Whitney Barringer, *AHA*

10:45–10:55 Transition to breakout rooms

10:55–11:45 Breakout #1 Sessions

- A. Developing General Education Programs Through the Lens of Change, Belonging, and Identity, Part 1 (Cassandra Newby Alexander, *Norfolk State Univ.*), **Lacy Meeting Room**
- B. The Many Wars of Independence: Approaches to Teaching the American Revolution with Primary Sources (Nathan Sleeter, *Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason Univ.*), **Reynolds Leadership Center**
- C. America 250 Is Just the Beginning (Annie Evans, *New American History*, Melanie Holland, *Thomas Jefferson Foundation*, Kyle Stetz, *James Madison's Montpelier*, and Sam Florer, *Virginia Museum of History and Culture*), **Byrd Meeting Room**
- D. TPS/Scaling Inquiry Statewide: A K-12 Collaborative Social Studies Model (Vicki Hobson, *Longwood University, VSSLC*, Danyael Graham, *Loudoun County Public Schools, VSSLC*, Neeley Minton, *Albemarle County Public Schools, VSSLC*, Beau Dickinson, *Rockingham County Public Schools, VSSLC*, and Eric Duchaj, *Falls Church City Public Schools, VSSLC*), **Cullen Meeting Room**

11:45–12:00 Break

12:00–12:50 Breakout #2 Sessions

- A. Developing General Education Programs Through the Lens of Change, Belonging, and Identity, Part 2 (Cassandra Newby Alexander, *Norfolk State Univ.*), **Lacy Meeting Room**
- B. Dual and Concurrent Enrollment History Courses (Michelle Lukacs, *Annandale High School, Fairfax County Public Schools*), **Cullen Classroom**
- C. Digging into the Data on Student Success in Intro History Courses (Andrew Koch, *John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Higher Education*), **Byrd Meeting Room**
- D. Founders, not Footnotes: Expanding US History for a More Representative Story (Emily Krichbaum, *National Women's History Museum*). **Reynolds Leadership Center**

12:50–2:20 Lunch (and Exhibits), **Halsey Family Hall**

2:20–3:20 Plenary: History and Dual Enrollment: Mapping the Landscape

Moderator: Ed Ayers, *Univ. of Richmond*
Andrew Koch, *Gardner Institute*

Laura DaVinci, *Every Learner Everywhere*
Akilah Martin, *Gardner Institute*
Kate McConnell, *Association of American Colleges and Universities*
Micol Hutchison, *Virginia's Community College System*

3:20–3:30 Transition to breakout rooms

3:30–4:15 Breakout #3 Sessions

- A. Using Digital Humanities and Open Educational Resources in Intro Courses (Robert Nelson, Julian Hayter, Riley Champine, and Annie Evans, *Univ. of Richmond*; and Warren Hofstra, *Shenandoah Univ.*), **Byrd Meeting Room**
- B. Building Media Literacy Confidence in a Complex Information Landscape (Sam Futrell, *Coll. of William and Mary, Lily PD*, and Ali Blankenship, *Coll. of William and Mary, Lily PD*), **Reynolds Leadership Center**
- C. Digging Into the Humanities: Discussion on Making Virtual Archaeology Lessons for Virginia Classrooms (Rachel Alwine, *Fairfield Foundation*), **Lacy Meeting Room**
- D. Measuring the Value of History to a Well-Rounded K-16 Education: ROI and Workforce Readiness (Julia Brookins, *AHA*), **Cullen Meeting Room**

Saturday, August 29

8:30–9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00–9:20 Recap and preview

9:20–10:20 Plenary: The Civic Value of History Courses

Moderator: Julia Brookins, *AHA*
Ian McNeely, *Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*
Christina Ross, *iCivics*
Meg Heubeck, *Univ. of Virginia Center for Politics*
Shannon Salter, *Educating for American Democracy, Allentown School District*

10:20–10:40 Recent AHA activities

AHA Staff

10:40–10:55 Transition to breakout rooms

10:55–11:45 Breakout #4 Sessions

- A. Workshop: Teaching Historical Thinking Skills (Jennifer Hart, *Virginia Tech*), **Lacy Meeting Room**

- B. Is Women's History a Divisive Concept? (Moderator: Catherine Flinn, *New American History*, Laurantett Lee, *Richmond Hill*, Katherine Perrotta, *Mercer Univ.*, and Catherine Allgor, *Liaison to the Advisory Council, Smithsonian American Women's History Museum*), **Byrd Meeting Room**
- C. Foundations of Democracy: A New Core Course in North Carolina (Heather Ruth Lee, *Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill*, Antwain K. Hunter, *Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill*), **Reynolds Leadership Center**
- D. Historical Thinking in the Age of AI: Inquiry, Evidence, and Feedback in Advanced U.S. History Courses (Amy Allen and David Hicks, *Virginia Tech*), **Cullen Meeting Room**

11:45–12:00 Break

12:00–12:50 Breakout #5 Sessions: Making History Indispensable

- A. We Want More History – Exploring Opportunities for Public Engagement (Jennifer Mills, *George Mason Univ.*), **Byrd Meeting Room**
- B. Indispensable History Education, K-12 (Annie Evans, *Univ. of Richmond*), **Reynolds Leadership Center**
- C. Indispensable History in Higher Education (Rebecca Harris, *Northern Virginia Comm. Coll.*, Nate Sleeter (*George Mason Univ.*), **Lacy Meeting Room**
- D. TPS Project Workshop – How to Develop Your Project and Apply for Regional Grants (Whitney Barringer, *AHA*), **Cullen Meeting Room**

12:50–2:20 Lunch (and Exhibits), **Halsey Family Hall**

2:25–3:00 Closing Plenary: Setting an Agenda for Introductory History Courses, **Halsey Family Hall**

Recommended Conference Pre-Readings

- Julia Brookins and Laura Ansley, eds., [*Designing Introductory History Courses for Student Success*](#) (AHA, 2024).
- AHA Tuning project, [History Discipline Core statement](#) (rev. Dec. 2016).
- History's "Essential Concepts and Competencies," from the Social Science Research Council's Measuring College Learning project (2016). [pdf](#)
- Virginia 2023 Standards of Learning for History and Social Science: [web](#); [pdf](#)
- AHA, [American Lesson Plan: Teaching US History in Secondary Schools](#) (2024).
- Andrew K. Koch, "[Many Thousands Failed: A Wakeup Call to History Educators](#)," *Perspectives on History*, May 2017.
- Caleb Wood Richardson, "[Turning Inquiry into Action: Using Communities of Practice to Build Better Introductory History Courses](#)," *Perspectives on History*, December 2020.
- Steven Mintz, "[Reimagining the History Survey Course](#)," *AHA Today*, April 23, 2018.
- Paulina L. Alberto and Farina Mir, "[History 101: What It Is and Why We Need It Now](#)," *Perspectives on History*, April 2018.
- Ryan Quinn, "[How GOP State Lawmakers Are Reshaping General Education](#)," *Inside Higher Ed*, June 16, 2026.

Shared Drive for Conferences Resources

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