

## HIGHER LEARNING

# CSU wins grant to lead partners preparing Ohio-history lessons

Cleveland State University has been awarded a grant totaling nearly \$1 million by the U.S. Department of Education to lead a partnership to improve the teaching of American history in Greater Cleveland school districts.



Jennifer Gonzalez

The plan is to add Ohio's unique history along the Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor to school curricula. Titled "Rivers, Roads and Rails," the program will provide thousands of K-12 students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences that will teach them, for example, how the corridor transformed Cleveland from a frontier settlement to an economic force.

Cleveland State is implementing curriculum with Euclid city schools and 27 other local school districts, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio and Erie National Heritage Canalway, Kenyon College, Case Western Reserve University and the Tuscarawas-Carroll-Harrison Education Services Center.

"There is a crisis in history education today," said Mark Tebeau, an associate professor of history at CSU who is leading the partnership. "Only about 56 percent of history teachers nationwide have a degree in history. Fewer than half of the teachers in our partner districts hold degrees in history, and the state has shifted the study of U.S. history from ninth grade to eighth grade, where middle school teachers are less likely than high school teachers to have formal training in history."

**Partnership benefits:** The graduate student Senate at Kent State University is pushing the university to offer domestic-partner health benefits to its faculty.

The Senate passed a unani-

mous resolution on Wednesday and sent a copy along with a letter to the university's president, provost and board of trustees.

The American Association of University Professors — Kent Chapter has

tried unsuccessfully to get the university to agree to domestic-partner health benefits during past contract negotiations.

"To me, this is a human rights issue," said Tremaine Gregory, 28, an anthropology graduate student at Kent, who initiated the resolution.

Gregory said the lack of domestic-partner health benefits makes Kent less competitive because other universities in and outside Ohio offer them.

**Getting help:** Need help filling out your college-bound student's application for student aid?

Several Northeast Ohio colleges are taking part in Ohio College Goal Sunday, a statewide event aimed at helping prospective college students tackle the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. University financial aid advisers will explain the FAFSA form line by line and be available to answer questions after the presentation.

The event will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12. It is free and open to the public, but participants are encouraged to register by logging on to [www.ohiocollegegoal.sunday.org](http://www.ohiocollegegoal.sunday.org) by Friday, Feb. 10. Area colleges participating include the University of Akron, Cuyahoga Community College-Western Campus, Ursuline College, Kent State University and Lorain County Community College.

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