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LOCAL TEACHER ATTENDS 2023 BOB AND MARION WILSON TEACHER INSTITUTE OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

(Name of Teacher) from (Name of School) Learns New Methods of Engaging Students in American History Lessons

Williamsburg, Va. – *(Insert full name of teacher)*, a *(insert grade)*-grade teacher at *(insert name of school)* in *(city, state)*, recently completed an intense immersion experience in American history at The Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute of Colonial Williamsburg.

The Teacher Institute was created to encourage American history and civics education and make it engaging and relevant for students. Now in its 34th year, the Teacher Institute helps prepare teachers to help students meet state history standards through hands-on immersion experiences in colonial history.

(Insert last name of teacher) is a teacher in *(insert name of district)* School District. *(He/she)* has taught for *(insert #)* years at *(insert name of school)*. *(He/she)* holds a bachelor's degree in *(subject)* from *(name of college/university)* and a master's degree in *(subject from (name of college/university))*.

The Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute of Colonial Williamsburg provides participants with interactive teaching techniques and skills to become mentor teachers who can assist their peers and other educators in their community or district to develop active learning classrooms and make history exciting for their students.

During sessions on location in Colonial Williamsburg and the surrounding area, participants engage in an interdisciplinary, inclusive, and relevant approach to teaching social studies with American history and civics as the focus. Teachers have the opportunity to exchange ideas with historians, meet character interpreters and explore engaging instructional strategies for use in the classroom. Throughout each day, teachers work collaboratively with Colonial Williamsburg staff and a Master Teacher to examine interactive teaching techniques and develop instructional materials that improve instruction, raise literacy levels, enhance thinking skills, and bring history to life in the classroom. Participating teachers agree to conduct in-service training sessions following their attendance at the Teacher Institute to share their experience with other teachers. Teachers also are required to develop lesson plans that to implement in the classroom.

Colonial Williamsburg builds on its more than 70-year educational outreach tradition by exploring new technologies, expanding successful initiatives, and offering new ventures to fulfill its educational mission. During the COVID pandemic, the Teacher Institute pivoted to online professional development to help teachers where they were and to provide digital content. The Teacher Institute was developed to improve the quality of American history education in the nations' schools and ensure that every student gains an understanding of the principles behind our system of government. The program began in 1990 with 44 fifth-grade teachers from two southern California school districts. Today, almost 10,700 teachers from all 50 states, and six territories and countries have participated since the inception of the Teacher Institute.

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or

elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

To learn more about The Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute of Colonial Williamsburg, visit <http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/teach>.