Iowa's P.A.S.T. (Programming Archeology for School Teachers)

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4. It is well to remember that there are very few archeologists in Iowa and much work to be done. In some cases, perhaps the best an archeologist can do in response to an inquiry is provide information and encouragement in exchange for data provided by a teacher or learner. It would not be realistic to think that an archeologist would be able to respond to each inquiry in person, although he would like to. Hopefully some day this kind of service can be provided. In the meantime, if teachers can supply archeologists with detailed information to evaluate, it should be possible to check out the most promising finds.

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The National Endowment for Humanities has recently granted the Office of the Iowa State Archeologist funds for developing archeological learning materials for the youth of Iowa at the fifth grade level. Dr. D. C. Anderson, the State Archeologist has just released the following description of the project.

Project Summary

PURPOSE: Prepare inexpensive curricular materials that will expand and improve the teaching/learning of Iowa archaeology on 5th grade level; develop a teaching model useful elsewhere.

PARTICIPANTS: State Archaeologist, ¼ time, project archaeologist, ¼ time, project educator, full time, will carry out the project by collaborating with other agencies/individuals: State Department of Public Instruction staff will aid in curriculum development and evaluation; AEA administrators school superintendents in pilot AEA's will assist with coordination; 50 teachers (minimum) and their students will be involved in testing of project materials. University of Iowa Audiovisual Center will assist with preparation of duplication of learning materials.

DISSEMINATION: DPI will publish a brochure on project to be sent to all Iowa schools. Tentative approval received to produce 20 minute videotape to introduce project statewide. Project staff will address Iowa State Education Association, Iowa Academy of Science and Iowa State Educational Bazaar. Project results will be disseminated regionally and nationally at professional educational and anthropological meetings.


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