



National
Endowment
for the
Humanities

An Agency
of the
Federal
Government

Division of Education Programs

The Division of Education Programs

Dear Colleague:

The recent successes that schools and colleges across the nation have had in their efforts to strengthen humanities instruction should encourage everyone who is convinced that the study of history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other basic disciplines of the humanities must be given a central role in education. The Endowment is prepared to assist teachers and scholars who share this conviction and who are willing to act upon it by taking steps to insure higher standards of teacher performance and student achievement in the humanities.

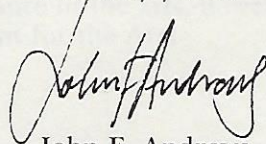
To study the humanities is to understand both change and continuity in human civilization from ancient times to the modern era. It is to cultivate a disciplined way of studying, of ordering one's ideas and expressing them with clarity. The Endowment's work is thus based on two premises: that the humanities are a body of ideas, texts, and disciplines of lasting significance, and that study of the humanities provides us not only with knowledge and perspective but also with the capacity for analytical reasoning and critical judgment.

The guidelines for the grant programs described in this brochure are unequivocal about the goals of humanities education, but they are also flexible about the means of achieving those goals. They recognize that success depends on the determination and skill of institutional leaders, teachers, and scholars who have committed themselves to raising the quality and standards of humanities instruction.

Those familiar with last year's edition of this brochure will note some revisions, particularly in the Exemplary Projects Program. They will also observe new emphases on teacher preparation and on inter-institutional collaboration. These guidelines have benefited from the suggestions of many readers during the past year. We hope that readers will continue to let us know of ways to improve them further.

As you prepare a grant proposal for any of the purposes suggested in the following pages, please do not hesitate to request assistance from me or from any of my colleagues in the Endowment's Division of Education Programs.

Sincerely yours,



John F. Andrews
Acting Director
Division of Education Programs

February 1985