BRINGING HISTORY TO THE CLASSROOM:

Outreach for Museums

Roseann Bacha-Garza
CHAPS Program Manager
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
March 2018

And so a project was born through collaborative minds
*Dr. Russell Skowronek and Dr. Christopher Miller
Regional Research
*Boots on the ground
*Community partners
Grant proposals
*In-kind donors (NPS-mobile web)
Utilization of in-house UTRGV services
*Website development [http://www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail](http://www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail)
*Brochure/map development
*Audio podcast [UTRGV Bagdad](http://www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail)
Curriculum/lesson plans aligned with TEKS
*Dr. Rolando Avila, Ed.D.

2-Day community launch / debut event
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
Initiated February 2015
6 hour professional-development workshop for regional K-12 educators
Combination of lectures, hands-on trunk instruction and curriculum development sessions
Each participating school district will get one trunk to keep

INVENTORY:
- Total cost approximately $1,000
- Federal Flyweight Jacket
- Confederate Buckle
- Federal Foreign Cap “Barlowe”
- Shoulder Bag with Bag Cover
- SS Regimental Overcoat with Iron Bayonet
- Shirt with Apsen, Cap & Shoulder Straps
- Confederate, 2 Stars Star Belt Plate
- Round Eagle Breast Plate for Cartridge Box
- 36 Star US Civil War Uniform
- 33rd Texas Cavalry Confederate Flag
- 34th Regiment Indiana Volunteers Union Flag
- Military Belt
- Bear Cigar
- Bolo Tie and Roger Clinton Artillery Caps
- Bear Crossing Indian/Civil War Replica Coins and Paper Currency
- Canteen
- Brass Crossed Sabers/Cavalry
- Tourism Map of 200 Mile Trail

STUDENTS CAN DRESS AS SOLDIERS AND CAMP NURSE

BELT BUCKLES AND HAT INSIGNIA
- Cross Swords - Cavalry
- Bugle/Horn - Infantry

NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRADE: COTTON AND SALT
3/20/2018

**TEACHING TOOLS**
Lesson Plan Book – TEKS Aligned
Teachers’ Guide Book

**POSTERS WITH COORDINATING LESSON PLANS**

**CIVIL WAR ERA FLAGS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE**
- 1863 US 35-Star Flag
- 2nd National Confederate Flag “The Stainless Banner” flown with 33rd Texas Cavalry led by Col. Santos Benavides
- 84th Regiment US Colored Infantry at White Ranch(e) near Palmito Ranch
- 84th Regiment Indiana Volunteers fought at last land battle of Civil War at Palmito Ranch

**REPLICA CURRENCY & CLASS SET OF MAPS**
These lessons are aligned to objectives in the Social Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for elementary and secondary schools. Although the lessons may be easily adapted to other grade levels, the primary focus is on 4th, 6th, 8th grade, and Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History.
WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED?

Anyone can travel the trail “virtually” via
- Dedicated webpage with UTRGV
- Mobile web with National Park Service
- Distribution of 30,000 brochures
- Bi-lingual

Community Engagement and Professional Conferences
- Public lectures at regional museums, historical societies and community organizations
- Texas State Historical Association

Professional Development Workshops for E-12 Educators and Administrators (4)

CHAIRMAN’S AWARD FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION – JULY 2016

“The Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail is the epitome of a community-based project made possible with collaborations between city, county, state and federal organizations,” Nau said. “You have done a remarkable job interpreting and sharing an under-told chapter of our history. We are excited to see what the future holds for this esteemed initiative.”

John L. Nau III
Texas Historical Commission Chairman
July 2016

For complete article, go to:
**FUTURE PLANS**

- Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail – Finale Event - February 2019
- Traveling Museum Exhibit Launch – UTRGV Visitor’s Center
- Documentary Film Release – *Just a Ferry Ride to Freedom*
- Community Engagement Event – Public Lecture Series – Book(s) Signing
- Final Teacher Professional Development Workshop

---

**LESIONS LEARNED**

- Important to build a solid team – those with strengths in all aspects involved
- Impress those you ask to help with advanced preparation
- Stay connected to those who can help you – Texas Historical Commission, Region One ESC, local teachers/educators/administrators, living history personnel and reenactors
- Expand into libraries and museums

---

**OUR MISSION**

“The Rio Grande Civil War Trail showcases an important part of South Texas history. This is the untold story of the complicated cross-border, multi-sided Civil War era specific to the Rio Grande Valley in both Texas and Mexico that took place most intensively between 1861 and 1867, yet the roots of which reach back to at least 1846 and extend forward to at least 1877.”

Christopher Miller, Ph.D.  CHAPS Associate Director and UTRGV History Professor

“It is our hope that these lessons and activities will create opportunities for the study of local history in a way that will transform the local community into a laboratory for learning. It is also our hope that as students engage in these lessons and activities, they will become better prepared for state standardized tests and overall academic achievement.”

Rolando Aría, Ed.D.  UTRGV Lecturer, History

---

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US**

- Roseann Bacha-Garza, M.A.  roseann.bachagarza@utrgv.edu
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  www.utrgv.edu/chapa
- CHAPS Program Manager  www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail
- Tricia Blakistone  tricia.blakistone@thc.texas.gov
- Texas Historical Commission  www.thc.texas.gov/museum-services
- www.utrgv.edu/chaps  www.utrgv.edu/civilwar-trail