



**Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission**  
**Higher Education/Lifelong learning Sub-committee Meeting**  
Maryland Higher Education Commission  
Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD 21401-3474  
June 29, 2010  
10:00 – 11:30am

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Welcome and introductions**

In attendance: Tom Carney, Janet Caslow, Kate Dinnel, Kathleen Kreul, Gail Long, Kate Marks, Bill Pencek, Pat Perluke, Kim Popetz, George Reid, Larry Unger, and Clay Whitlow.

#### **Review and discussion of suggested initiatives**

##### Engage colleges, universities, and community colleges

Commission staff presented to Maryland Higher Education Commission's (MHEC) Segmental Advisory Council on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Since it was only a week prior to this meeting, there has not been much feedback but there was interest among the attendees. Commission staff has requested to present to the Faculty Advisory Council on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

##### *Incentivize history coursework and research related to War of 1812*

The group agreed the best first step would be to conduct an inventory of currently taught courses on the War of 1812. It was suggested that Commission staff approach history chairs and members of the segmental advisory council to gather this information. Also, a notice can easily be sent to the community college faculty. In planning this, the Commission should be mindful of lead time. New courses on special topics usually require two years to create. Another idea would be to encourage the addition of a War of 1812 book on the syllabus for introductory history courses.

For personal enrichment courses, a basic course on the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake could be developed and supplemented with relevant local history of a particular region (for example, in southern Maryland, a focus on the Battle[s] of St. Leonard Creek). Each course would offer time in the classroom as well as "field trips" to local War of 1812 sites.

Other ideas to engage college students were discussed. Suggestions included:

- exploring tie-ins to culinary, dance, and music courses,
- half-time performances at basketball and football games,
- creating of widgets and Apps,
- increasing Commission's social media presence,
- "flash mobs" on campuses, and
- creating lending libraries for re-enactor uniforms and rifles at community colleges.

##### *Creation of podcasts/pre-recorded lectures*

MPT is working with Forum Network, an online site where recorded lectures are free and available to the general public. In nine months, MPT will be able to post lectures to the site.

##### Society of Historians for Early American Republic Conference

Tom Carney is the local Chair for the July 2012 conference. Commission staff will work with Tom to explore options to participate – through information in conference packets, possible session proposals, etc. It was suggested that there could be more academic conferences coming to the region during the



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bicentennial period. When the Commission staff presents to the Faculty Advisory Council in September, it will ask the members for information about other related upcoming academic conferences.

War of 1812–themed Elderhostel/distance learning

Clay Whitlow told the group about Maryland’s law of free tuition of community college courses for senior citizens. As a result, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges has a good relationship with senior citizen groups and retirement communities. This should be a consideration as the personal enrichment courses are developed.

Commission staff will look into the possibility of establishing an 1812-themed Elderhostel [update since meeting – Calvert Marine Museum will be working with Elderhostel to develop a course. Dr. Ralph Eshelman will serve as a guide].

Gilder Lerman Institute partnership

While Gilder Lerman was recognized as great organization to partner with, it may make it hard to establish a partnership without an “in.” Kate will talk to Abbi Wicklein-Bayne, Chair of the K-12 subcommittee, for ideas.

**Prioritize initiatives and next steps**

Commission staff will work on creating an inventory of current courses on War of 1812. Once this is created, the group will have a better understanding on how to pursue other projects. The goal is to get as much of the inventory in place before the next meeting of the entire Education and Curriculum Advisory Committee, tentatively set for late September.