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Joint Press Release

Sultana Projects, Inc. and the Kent County Public Schools

August 19, 2010

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**Kent County Public Schools and Sultana Projects Awarded Prestigious
\$950,000 Teaching American History Grant from the U.S. Department
of Education**

Grant will fund three-year professional development program for American History teachers in Kent, Calvert, Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties in Maryland.

Chestertown, Maryland: The Kent County Public Schools and Sultana Projects announced today that the Kent County Public Schools have been awarded a \$950,000 "Teaching American History" grant from the United States Department of Education. The grant will support a new professional development program entitled, "***Roots of a Nation – A Chesapeake Journey***," for American History teachers in seven Maryland counties including Kent, Calvert, Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's and Talbot. The "***Roots of a Nation***" program was developed by Sultana Projects under the auspices of the Kent County Public Schools and in partnership with the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College, the Center for the Environment and Society at Washington College, and the Calvert Marine Museum. The "***Roots of a Nation***" grant was one of 124 "Teaching American History" grants made to school districts in 40 states announced by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on August 6.

"I strongly supported this Teaching American History grant because it will ensure that our Eastern Shore youngsters develop an appreciation of the unique history of the Chesapeake Bay region and the important role it has played in our nation's history," said U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin. "History is a study of our past, but it also prepares us for the future by teaching us about the important events of the past that helped us to become the nation we are today."

The U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History grant program aims to enhance teachers' understanding of American History through intensive professional development, including study trips to historic sites and mentoring with professional historians and other experts. Projects are required to partner with organizations that have

broad knowledge of American History, such as libraries, museums, nonprofit historical or humanities organizations, and higher education institutions.

“I am very excited about the awarding of this grant,” commented Kent County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Barbara Wheeler. “The professional development funds will provide teachers with unique strategies that will make history come alive for our young learners. Students will enhance their reading and writing skills through study, research and hands-on learning. Because multiple counties will participate in the grant, teachers will be able to network and learn from others in the same profession. This is a great opportunity for our children and teachers.”

“We are very pleased to be working with the Kent County Public Schools, the other participating school districts, and our partners at Washington College and the Calvert Marine Museum on this exciting initiative,” said Drew McMullen, President of Sultana Projects, the organization that spearheaded the development of the project and oversaw the grant application. “Many of the schools and teachers that will be involved in this program already work with Sultana Projects and this will only help to improve the impact and effectiveness of our existing educational programs.”

The principal goals of the, “*Roots of a Nation – A Chesapeake Journey*,” Teaching American History initiative are to increase teacher content knowledge, improve pedagogical practices, and measurably improve student achievement in American History. The program will provide 35 teachers with a rigorous three-year professional development program that emphasizes the use of primary documents, connects teachers to local resources, and examines innovative methods for delivering history content in the classroom. Using the Chesapeake Bay as a unifying theme, “*Roots of a Nation*” will explore content area and specific pedagogical goals related to four key periods in American History, including: 1) Native American History and European Settlement, 2) the Revolutionary War Period, 3) the War of 1812, and 4) Slavery and the Civil War.

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