Dear Prospective Teaching Shakespeare 2018 participants:

Thanks so much for thinking about coming to Washington and to the Folger and diving into Shakespeare! Since 1984, the National Endowment for the Humanities has supported the continuing work of the Folger Shakespeare Library's intense, month-long studies of a small selection of plays from three essential perspectives: scholarship, performance, and the secondary school classroom. This summer, we will go deep inside *1 Henry VI*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. We’re thrilled at the prospect: a tragedy and a comedy frequently taught, and a history that appears in high school probably only in a Shakespeare elective. We have a lot to learn from these plays, individually and in combination. We can’t wait.

The institute month here is fast-paced, exhilarating, and sometimes challenging. Our theory of action is this: you and your work (and your students) are so important to us that in every moment of a Teaching Shakespeare month, we want to offer you an experience, an opportunity, a new horizon that you couldn’t get anywhere else, at any other time. You are with *this* group of new colleagues, with *this* faculty, inside the world’s largest collection of Shakespeare for four weeks, and we want you to wring every drop out of that experience. You will be living on the campus of an historic and well-respected university, in a college dorm that is perfectly serviceable but highly bare bones.

Because no one works harder than good teachers, you may be looking for a summer program in which there is lots of free time to see the sights in DC or have a relaxing break from your busy teaching year. Those are worthy and understandable goals to be sure, but if that’s the case, my guess is that we are probably not the program for you.

If you’re high energy, a natural collaborator, hungry and thirsty for new knowledge and for learning in multiple ways, if you are always seeking to improve your teaching and your students’ learning, if you have an appetite for diving into Shakespeare even if you’re new at it, and if you want to plumb the ways that great teaching can transform learning . . . please apply!

We know that schoolteachers do the most important work on earth. For all of us here, the chance to work in depth with teachers is not only an honor, but it is our most exciting work.

Questions? Give us a shout!

Peggy O’Brien
pobrien@folger.edu