CURRICULUM
“THE SOUTHERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT:
THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE
The Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO
“Nobody’s Free ‘Til Everybody’s Free”

SESSION ONE
Monday, June 8, 2015
“This Little Light of Mine”

9:00am – 9:30am Opening & Introductory Remarks
Dr. Rico D. Chapman, Jackson State University
Mr. Keith Lamont McMillian, Jackson State University
Mrs. Rose Wright, Bailey APAC Middle School

9:30am – 12:30am Mississippi – Before & After the Civil Right Movement
Mr. Shannon Thames, Instructor, Department of History, JSU

Readings: TBA:

12:30pm -2:00pm Lunch – Heritage Dining Hall

2:30pm – 4:30pm Lynch Street and the Civil Rights Movement
Walking Tour – From Jackson State University, participants will learn about the Gowdy Community, visit Rose McCoy Auditorium (College Park), Campbell College, the Gibbs/Green Memorial, Margaret Walker Center, Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church and Parsonage, Pearl Street AME (Zion Travelers), a Freedom House, Mount Olive Cemetery, NAACP, Masonic Temple, the Council of Federated Organizations office, and.

SESSION TWO
Tuesday, June 9, 2015
“This Little Light of Mine”

9:00am –4:30pm Jackson Civil Rights Tour
Mr. Larry Thurman
Pick up at the COFO Civil Rights Education Center, 1017 John R. Lynch Street

9:00 am Driving Tour – Sites to be explored in the Jackson Civil Rights tour include: Woolworth Counter (Marker), Central High School, Greyhound Bus Station (Marker), Jackson Municipal Library, Mississippi State Fairground, Lanier High School, Mary C. Jones, Old New Hope (Medgar Evers Church), Freedom Corner, Medgar Evers Library

11:00 am Medgar Evers Home and Museum,

12:30pm Smith Roberson Museum
Farish Street and Downtown Jackson,

3:00pm Old Capitol Museum

Return by 4:30pm (COFO Civil Rights Education Center)
SESSION THREE
Wednesday, June 10, 2015
“Women In The Movement”

9:00am – 10:30 am  Biography - Ida B. Wells-Barnett: Racial Violence & Economic Sufficiency
TBD

Instructional materials:

Video:  

IDA B. WELLS: CRUSADER FOR JUSTICE
At the age of sixteen, Ida B. Wells became politically active and influential in her community. To understand how she challenged lynching and segregation and worked to institute lasting change, we will use a video of her life interspersed with lecture and discussion. Her use of the press to draw attention to the wide-spread problem of lynching was compelling in that she convincingly demonstrated that root cause of lynching was not the criminal behavior of Blacks, but the White fear of Black economic, political, and social success. She convinced many that the use of such economic strategies as workforce mobility and international boycotts would successfully pressure Whites to examine the threadbare justifications for racial violence.

10:30am – 10:45am  Break

10:45 am -12:15pm  Biography – Mrs. Annie Devine and Victoria Jackson Gray Adams
Mrs. Flonzie Brown Wright

Instructional materials:

Video:  

Eyes on the Prize—Mississippi: Is This America?
Annie Devine was a mother of four when she got involved with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1963, and she quickly became a source of strength for the many young people who came to Mississippi as part of the civil rights movement. A year later she was an integral figure in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) and its Freedom Summer campaign, traveling to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City and then to Washington, D.C., to challenge the seating of the state’s all-white congressional delegation. Thanks to those efforts, Devine, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Victoria Gray Adams became the first black women to be seated on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives even as guests, and together they paved the way to greater political, social, and economic power for the next generation.

12:30am - 1:30pm  Lunch – Heritage Dining Hall

1:45pm - 3:15pm  A Portrait of Fannie Lou Hamer - Mrs. Rose Wright

This session provides an introduction to Mrs. Hamer through lecture, film, and discussion. Fannie Lou Hamer, sharecropper, spiritual leader and one of the founders of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, was instrumental in changing the rules of the National Democratic Party. She was actively engaged in working with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, which tried to change the economic landscape for people in the Mississippi Delta and beyond.

3:15pm – 4:30pm  Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright, Bailey APAC Middle School)

Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations at family night
SESSION FOUR
Thursday, June 11, 2015
“The Development of the Modern-Day Mississippi Movement”

9:00am –10:30am  COFO and the Mississippi Movement

In this session, students will examine the role of The Council of Federated Organizations and the people that were instrumental in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. COFO was a coalition of the major Civil Rights Movement organizations operating in Mississippi. COFO was formed in 1962 to coordinate and unite voter registration and other civil rights activities in the state and oversee the distribution of funds from the Voter Education Project. It was instrumental in forming the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). COFO member organizations included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Students will also come to know many of the local people and grass-roots organizers who worked, and in some cases gave their lives, for the cause of civil rights in Mississippi including Fannie Lou Hamer, Victoria Gray and Annie Devine, Medgar Evers, and others.

10:30am -10:45am  Break

11:00  The Delta as Place

Dr. L.C. Dorsey was a woman who began as a sharecropper in the Mississippi Delta, who while raising children met the young people of SNCC and became involved in the Civil Rights Movement. After earning her doctorate, Dr. Dorsey worked in the Delta in health initiatives and in preventing the prison pipeline. We will show and discuss an oral history of hers in which she discussed the idea of the Mississippi Delta as not only a unique geographical location, but the notion of “place” in which African-Americans were kept oppressed and politically unorganized through both political and economic structures and through the behavior of those whites in power. Dr. Dorsey died in the summer of 2013.


12:00  Lunch

1:30 pm - 3:00pm  Regional Council of Negro Leadership and Dr. T.R.M. Howard

The contributions of Dr. T.R.M. Howard and the Regional Council of Negro Leadership (RCNL) will be examined by the Hamer core faculty. Dr. Howard’s coalition organization worked closely with the state NAACP and several state based Voter’s Leagues in Mississippi. The RCNL led voter registration drives and boycotted white owned businesses that did not provide rest room facilities for African American citizens.

In this session, participants will explore two common starting points for the Civil Rights movement, the lynching of Emmett Till and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Though powerfully different stories, in each case the examples of resistance and institutional strength are unmistakable. The Till case reveals the savage resistance of whites to black demands for equality and the increasing unwillingness of African Americans to accept their fate even when the law is utterly against them. The memory of the Till lynching was seared into the memory of Movement activists who shaped both the Mississippi and national movements. The speakers will draw comparisons between what happened to Emmett Till and the inspiration his death provided for the people who lead the boycott in Montgomery. Rosa Parks pointed out that she was thinking about Till when she refused to vacate her seat on the bus in Montgomery. In Montgomery, you have the organization of an entire back community through the mobilization of critical institutions already in place and begun decades earlier. The NAACP, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the church, Alabama State College, the Women’s Political Council, among many more were activated and within a weekend, convinced a black population of 50,000 to boycott the buses for more than one year for cause of human dignity. Here too we meet Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy, Jo Ann Gibson Robinson, and Martin Luther King.

Reading:

SESSION FIVE
Friday, June 12
“Into the Delta”

7:30 am  
Tour bus departs from Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO
1017 John Roy Lynch Street, Jackson, MS 39212
Breakfast on way
Video: Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is This America?

9:30 am  
Greenwood, Mississippi
In Greenwood, the group will learn about the civil rights activities based in that city. Charles McLaurin will describe the role of Jennings Temple C.M.E. Church, where mass meetings were held in the 1960s. Jennings Temple was also the site of several Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party gatherings in 1964. Next the group will visit the Elks Lodge, which hosted the first two SNCC meetings led by Sam Block. The group will also view Friendship Baptist Church, which served as the COFO headquarters after 1963; First Christian Church, home of many SNCC mass meetings; the SNCC office site, and Wesley United Methodist Church, which played a major role in the 1963 Greenwood protest and served as the major location for the distribution of clothes and food to local people during the 1963 boycott of Greenwood merchants. Wesley was also the venue for mass meetings and rallies for the MFDP. The tour also includes the LeFlore County Courthouse—the site where many African Americans were registered to vote in the 1960s.

10:45 am  
Money, Mississippi
On our way to Ruleville, we will stop and see the site of the store at which the exchange between Emmett Till and Carolyn Bryant occurred with such a tragic outcome. This deteriorating building is now a marked Landmark site on the Mississippi Civil Rights Trail.

11:00 am  
Ruleville, Mississippi
The Ruleville tour features a visit to the home sites of Fannie Lou Hamer. We will meet with Charles McLaurin of the Sunflower/Ruleville Black Historical Society, who will lead us on a tour of the Fannie Lou Hamer Multi-Purpose Complex and the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Park. We will also view Williams Chapel (Mrs. Hamer’s home church), and the Hamer Early
Childhood Center, and conclude with a visit to the gravesites of Mrs. Hamer and her husband Perry “Pap” Hamer.

12:30 pm Cleveland, Mississippi
In Cleveland, our first stop will be for lunch provided by a local community group. Our foray to Cleveland, Mississippi, will include a brief visit with Ms. Margaret Block (local community activist and sister of SNCC Organizer Sam Block) and a stop at Amsey Moore’s home, which is in the first stages of renovation.

2:00 pm Clarksdale, Mississippi
In Clarksdale, our first stop will be the Delta Blues Museum. From there, Charles McLaurin will lead participants in a tour of historical sites, including the former location of Dr. Henry’s Fourth Street Drug Store, a key meeting place for local Civil Rights leaders in Clarksdale. We will retrace “The Freedom March,” which started at the Fourth Street Drug Store, preceded west on Martin Luther King Drive to Yazoo Street, then down East Second Street to the Coahoma County Courthouse on First Street. Next, we will tour Haven United Methodist Church, the home church of Dr. Henry and his wife, Noelle, and daughter, Rebecca. The church was also the venue for local NAACP chapter meetings. Dr. Martin Luther King, Wyatt Tee Walker, Andrew Young, John Lewis, Fannie Lou Hamer and many other Civil Rights leaders spoke at Haven. Next, we will visit Aaron Henry’s campaign headquarters and the former NAACP office. The tour will also take us to other churches where mass meetings were held in the 1960s: Kings Temple Church and Chapel Hill Church. The tour will conclude with a visit to Aaron Henry’s home site.
Readings: Dittmer, chapters 16-18; Payne, chapters 14-epilogue

Return to Jackson Video: Never Turn Back

SESSION SIX
Monday, June 15, 2015
“The Ballad of Medgar Evers”

9:00 am – 10:00 am Dialogue about Fridays Activities

10:00 am – 11:30 am Dialogue about Medgar Evers and His Impact
Mr. Ken Bradley
Biography – Medgar Evers: Engaging Youth in the Movement
Video: Testament of a Murdered Man: Medgar Evers

Medgar Wiley Evers was the first permanent field secretary of the Mississippi National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Evers served in this position from 1954 until his assassination in 1963. He was the major force behind the Jackson Movement and worked very closely with young people across the state. Evers was a major “bridge builder” in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, reaching out to the other major Civil Rights organizations active in the state in order to better coordinate efforts and activities.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Lunch - Heritage Dining Hall
Aaron Henry

Aaron Edd Henry was a Civil Rights icon, community leader, business man and State Legislator. He was a central figure in the Mississippi Freedom Struggle from the 1950’s until his death in 1997. In 1959, he was elected State President of the NAACP, a position he held for 36 years. In 1962 he was one of the founders of the Council of Federated Organization (COFO). COFO was established to serve as the coordinating movement for the major Civil Rights Organizations in Mississippi in the 1960’s. Henry was by far one of the most ecumenical of the major civil rights leaders in Mississippi. He worked closely with CORE, SCLC, SNCC and a variety of community organization.

Aaron Henry was chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Delegation to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City in 1964. Henry along with Fannie Lou Hamer and others testified before the Credentials Committee of the National Convention. He and Bob Moses were the chief negotiators on behalf of the Freedom Democrats in 1964.

Henry served three terms in the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he introduced legislation repeatedly to change the Mississippi State Flag. In addition, he worked to assist the elderly and to improve medical care in Mississippi.

Break

Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright, Peeples Middle School)

Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations this evening at family night.

SESSION SEVEN
Tuesday, June 16, 2015
“Arts and Activism”

Cultural Expressions – Gallery One

Lunch

Cultural Expressions – Gallery One

Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright, Peeples Middle School)

Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations this evening at family night.
SESSION EIGHT
Wednesday, June 17, 2015
“Trailblazers in the Movement”

9:00 am – 10:15 pm  Portrait of Bob Moses: A Roundtable –

Video: Eyes on the Prize
Bob Moses is a living legend in the Civil Rights Movement. Moses came to Mississippi at the request of Mrs. Ella Baker in 1960 to conduct a general survey of Civil Rights activities in the South. He returned in 1961 to initiate what became known as the McComb Project. Moses worked closely with C.C. Bryant, Amzie Moore, and other local people to set in motion a Movement that helped change the Mississippi and American landscape in profound ways. As the leader of SNCC in Mississippi, Bob Moses helped to empower local people throughout Mississippi to stand up for their rights. The role that the Council of Confederated Organizations (COFO) played in Mississippi can be attributed to the groundbreaking work of Bob Moses, Dave Dennis and Aaron Henry. The Moses story is one that should be shared with people all over America. Indeed, he continues to advocate change through the Massachusetts based Algebra Project, a program that advocates Math literacy throughout the country from Civil Rights to Math Literacy--the “New” Civil Rights Movement--is a reflection of the work of Bob Moses.

10:15 am – 10:30 am  Break

11:00 am -12:00 pm  Dialogue about Bob Moses

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  Lunch - Heritage Dining Hall

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm  Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright, Baily APAC)
Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations at family night.

SESSION NINE
Thursday, June 18, 2015
“Politics and City Governance”

9:00am – 12:15pm  Jackson Mississippi City Governance

12:30pm – 1:30pm  Lunch

1:45pm – 3:00pm  Cultural Expressions – Gallery One

3:00pm – 4:15pm  Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright, Baily APAC)
Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations this evening at family night.

6:00pm – 8:00pm  Family Night and Reception (Ballroom A)
(Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright)
Students’ families are invited to see the work of the students and be introduced to the topics studied during the week.
SESSION TEN
Friday, June 19, 2015
“Memphis Trip – Civil Rights Journey”

6:30 AM     Depart for Memphis, TN

Breakfast on the road

Video

Eyes on the Prize: Keys to the Kingdom

10:30 am National Civil Rights Museum, Part One www.civilrightsmuseum.org

The National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel, the assassination site of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., chronicles key episodes of the American civil rights movement and the legacy of this movement. The first part of the exhibit portrays the broad sweep of African American history in the United States, with a particular focus on the era of Jim Crow and an emphasis on activities that challenged the structure of Jim Crow, with a particular look at the Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike and the assassination of Dr. King.

1:00 pm     Lunch on Beale Street

While Beale Street is currently known nationally as an entertainment district with a focus on the Blues, during the era of Jim Crow, it was the heart of the Black community. On this street is found venues in which famous black artists performed during segregation, the home of W.C. Handy (often known as the “Father of the Blues”), Beale Street Baptist Church where Ida B. Wells’ newspaper The Free Speech was housed, and the studio and now museum honoring Ernest Withers, famed civil rights photographer.

2:30       National Civil Rights Museum, Part Two

Opened to the public on Sept. 28, 2002, Exploring the Legacy, is a 12,800 sq. ft. expansion project aimed at addressing three key questions: 1) Did the Movement die with Dr. King? 2) Was James Earl Ray the assassin? and, 3) What is the legacy of the movement?

4:00       Depart for Jackson

6:30/7:00pm Arrive back in Jackson