

Teaching Religious Diversity through Civic Engagement

A Teacher Training with Face to Faith and the Interfaith Center of NY

November 7th, 2014

11:30am - 3pm



America's Middle and High Schools can play a vital role in fostering interfaith understanding, but unfortunately too many teachers are unprepared to teach effectively, appropriately, and constitutionally about contemporary religious diversity.

The Interfaith Center of New York and Face to Faith provide teachers with the resources to empower young Americans to bridge the divides between their religious worlds. This training will help teachers develop inclusive and constitutional approaches for exploring religious diversity in and out of the classroom.

Teachers will walk away with FREE resources and classroom technology tools tied to CCSS/ELA standards, as well as guidance for developing community-based religious diversity programs.

Location:

Interfaith Center of New York, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

Registration:

RSVP by November 1st.

Act now, limited space!

Please contact Kristen Looney to RSVP at: kristen.looney@tonyblairfaithfoundation.org or by calling 203-362-7935.

Cost:

Teacher Training is free and lunch will be provided.

Workshop Leaders:

Dr. Henry Goldschmidt
Director of Education Programs at the Interfaith Center of NY

Mary Katherine Sheena
Regis High School Faculty and Face to Faith Lead Teacher

Claire Lorentzen
Face to Faith Manager

Kristen Looney,
Head of Face to Faith, North America

Designed for the 12 to 17 years-old, Face to Faith combines education with opportunities for students to become familiar with the unfamiliar, thereby building mutual understanding and helping them to be more open to the diversity of the world. Teaching modules comprising flexible lessons that can be incorporated into a wide range of disciplines from social studies to languages, humanities and sciences are offered free to teachers whose schools participate in Face to Faith. Teachers use these resources to help their students develop knowledge about other religions and cultures as well as acquire key twenty-first century skills such as collaboration, active listening, critical thinking, and respectful dialogue. What sets Face to Faith apart from similar programs is that students are also exposed to the religions and cultures that they study. Following an introductory civil discourse, they participate in dialogues in the form of facilitated videoconferences and/or team-blogging projects and interactions on a secure and monitored online learning community. Drawing on the knowledge and skills they develop in class, students discuss global issues and exchange views with their peers from around the world in a respectful way within a safe environment. By taking part in Face to Faith, young people learn to respect, not fear, difference and gain understanding about one another, faith and its impact on the world.

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) is a secular nonprofit organization, founded in 1997, that works to build relationships among New York City's religious communities and civic institutions, and to educate New Yorkers and others about the city's religious diversity. ICNY's education programs serve secondary school students at public, private, and parochial schools in the New York area – offering them an introduction to the human face of religious diversity, through panel discussions with local religious leaders and site visits to local houses of worship. Our professional development program for teachers, the Religious Worlds of New York summer institute, was developed in partnership with Union Theological Seminary, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Religious Worlds institute brings teachers from throughout the United States to New York City, where they work with leading scholars of religion, meet with diverse religious leaders, visit local houses of worship, and develop the pedagogic tools they need to teach about contemporary lived religion.