November 12, 2010

Dear Colleague,

Are you planning to dedicate part of next summer to your professional development? I would like to invite you to apply to a 2-week summer fellowship program for teachers of German sponsored by the Center for German & European Studies (CGES) at the University of Minnesota.

The “Akademie fuer DeutschlandStudien Wittenberg” is a unique professional development program for highly motivated K-12 teachers of German like you. The focus is on current German culture and society. It is not a language program.

The program has been in place since 2002 and is earning rave reviews from participants. Each of our fellows has returned to the classroom with renewed energy, new ideas, updated teaching materials, and a wonderful new network of close colleagues. Next summer that could also be your experience.

The 2011 “Akademie fuer DeutschlandStudien” will take place June 19 to July 4 in Lutherstadt Wittenberg. It is offered in cooperation with the Institut für deutsche Sprache und Kultur der Universität Halle-Wittenberg and co-sponsored by the Max Kade Foundation, the German American Heritage Foundation of St. Paul, and the CGES Friends Fund. CGES will award fellowships to ten K-12 teachers from Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere in the continental United States. **Deadline for receipt of all application materials is Tuesday, January 25, 2011.**

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**Feedback from 2010 Fellows**

“I got so many tips in our ‘Teachers’ Roundtable Discussion.’ It inspired me to see how creative my colleagues are. Great discussions that I’m sure I’ll draw on this year.” –Katie Reimers (NY; 2010 Fellow)

“The impact of this program on me as a teacher? My German has improved tremendously. I now have first-hand knowledge of cultural everyday things. I have a great collection of ideas and materials.” –Kate Falvey (IA; 2010 Fellow)

“I absolutely recommend the Akademie. It is an awesome opportunity to practice German and to gather a wealth of up-to-date information about Germany today. The opportunity to live with and get to know more German families is not so common after college. It makes the fellowship all the more special.” –Heather Mahon (PA; 2010 Fellow)

“Should fellows have any particular professional preparation or background? A good command of German, a serious attitude— it was good to have a mix of older and younger teachers.” –Christin Whitehead (MO; 2010 Fellow)

“I found the opportunity to visit, then teach, in German schools one of the main draws of this fellowship; I would like to see even more time given to this in the future.” –Fran Reigle (IN; 2010 Fellow)

“The work in the schools, the Jugendsprache day, and the phonetic workshops were the best!”—Joanna Wallace (PA; 2010 Fellow)

“Two highlights: connecting with German teaching colleagues and experiencing the families in Wittenberg. Please keep this program around!”—Nathan Pritchard (MA; 2010 Fellow)

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**Details:**

Wittenberg is a mid-size historic city in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, one hour south of Berlin in former East Germany. A center of humanist learning and the Reformation, it was the home of Martin Luther and Philipp Melanchton. Its rich cultural history is reflected in the city’s many historic buildings, its archives,
and educational institutions. But Wittenberg is also very much about the present and future—part of post-
reunification Germany and an enlarging Europe. For you as a teacher of German these characteristics may
prove especially valuable.

As a Fellow you will live with a German host family, share their breakfasts and dinners, attend class at
the Institute, and visit German schools and classrooms; you will work with colleagues from across the
USA to collect material on contemporary German life and culture, meet and discuss with local resource
persons, make Wittenberg your base for trips to nearby Halle and Leipzig, and use all that to create
exciting new units for your own classroom. In short, you’ll have an opportunity to immerse yourself in
German life in one of the “neue Bundesländer” and experience first-hand Germany’s transformations.

Central questions to be explored in the “Akademie fuer DeutschlandStudien” are those in which teachers
and students in the United States express keen interest:

• How has Germany and German life changed since reunification?
• How, in particular, has life changed in the old GDR and what are the prospects for the future?
• What problems, challenges, and opportunities confront Germany in light of its role in a new,
  more unified Europe?

The Fellowship Program begins with a two-day Orientation Workshop at the University of Minnesota
April 8-10, 2011 (program begins with a joint dinner on Friday, 4/8). The objective is to work with
experts from the University, Wittenberg Program alumni, and other K-12 teachers to develop a
framework for creating new teaching units. At a second concluding workshop October 14-15, 2011,
Fellows will share their units and plan the program for the 2012 group of fellows.

As part of its commitment to supporting the study of Germany and Europe, the interdisciplinary Center
for German & European Studies provides a generous fellowship to each participant. Fellows will be
chosen on a competitive basis. Each fellowship covers tuition at the Institute, room and board with a
German host family, and costs for in-country travel and accommodations. In addition, you will receive
travel support up to $1,000 to help pay for round-trip international airfare to Berlin. Fellowship winners
from outside the Upper Midwest will also be eligible for additional support up to $200 to cover airfare
to/from Minneapolis for each of the workshops. Reimbursements will be made after the successful
completion of all parts of the program.

Fellowship winners will be expected to pay a registration fee of $800 and to cover the cost of lunches (ca.
$180) and food on excursions (ca. $50), health insurance (individually arranged), trip insurance
(optional). We also recommend a modest gift for the host family. Personal expenses will vary depending
on each individual.

The Center encourages in-depth exploration of all facets of Germany even beyond the two-week period of
the “Akademie fuer DeutschlandStudien.” Fellows may build in additional time for individual travel
either before or after the 2-week joint group program.

I strongly encourage you to apply and look forward to receiving your application. Application deadline
is January 25, 2011, and Fellowship decisions will be made by February 16, 2011.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sabine Engel, director