



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020**

C-SPAN supports teachers and students nationwide with transition to virtual education

Access to C-SPAN Classroom free resources and education programs expanded during COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON, D.C. – C-SPAN expands access to academic resources and programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shifts 2020 Summer Educators' Conferences and Fellowship to an all-virtual platform.

The network known for complete coverage of Congress and public affairs programming offers a variety of educational resources through [C-SPAN Classroom](#), a free membership service for middle and high school teachers that provides social studies teachers with thousands of free online resources. Visitors to the website can access Current Events videos, On This Day in History content, Constitution Clips and Classroom Deliberations. The login requirement to access Bell Ringers and Lesson Plans has been lifted during COVID-19 for non-C-SPAN Classroom members.

"During this time, we're hearing from teachers across the country that there is a need for accessible resources and teaching strategies," said Craig McAndrew, Director, C-SPAN Education Relations. "Our goal is to offer support and options for educators and students as they navigate these uncertain times."

Funded by the cable industry, C-SPAN's virtual education programs support the cable industry in their commitment to ensuring Americans remain connected during the crisis by expanding internet access for low-income households and families with students that are now learning from home.

Every summer, C-SPAN offers professional development experiences for middle and high school teachers around the country through its Educators' Conferences and Fellowship Program.

The Educators' Conferences provide teachers with the opportunity to explore C-SPAN Classroom's free education resources. Attendees discover how to incorporate these resources into their curriculums and create engaged learning experiences for students.

This year C-SPAN will host virtual summer conferences, allowing for a greater number of participants to benefit from the program. In years past, sixty middle and high school teachers attended the in-person conferences at C-SPAN's Washington, DC headquarters. However, the 2020 conferences are open to 1,000 educators nationwide, helping to prepare for the new school year whether it is in-person, distance, or hybrid learning.

The C-SPAN Fellowship Program selects teachers to collaborate with the Education Relations team to create new content for the upcoming school year. This summer the four week in-person experience also shifted to a virtual platform where educators are developing project ideas to feature on the C-SPAN Classroom website. Each Fellow was selected by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and evaluated based on their innovative use of C-SPAN programming in their curriculum, commitment to professional development and creative use of technology and social platforms. This year five C-SPAN Fellows were selected, and each will receive \$1,000 for participating in the program.

C-SPAN also conducts an annual video documentary competition, [StudentCam](#), which asks middle and high school students to critically explore issues of national importance. Participants create short videos that reflect quality research, present different sides of a topic, include interviews as well as a variety of C-SPAN video clips. In year's

past, C-SPAN has honored winning students at ceremonies held in their local communities during the last three months of the school year. However, due to COVID-19, winners were recognized by C-SPAN, elected officials, topic experts, local news outlets and community leaders through video messages, proclamations, articles and social media campaigns. This year nearly 5,400 students participated, and C-SPAN awarded a total of \$100,000 in cash prizes to the top 150 films.

The Educators' Conferences, Fellowship and StudentCam Programs are sponsored by C-SPAN's Education Foundation, a charitable organization created by C-SPAN. C-SPAN Classroom is an entity of C-SPAN, which is funded by America's cable television companies.

About C-SPAN Classroom:

C-SPAN Classroom is the network's FREE membership service that works with C-SPAN's programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, non-fiction books and American history to create free resources for teachers, students and the public to use in classrooms, projects or research. C-SPAN Classroom's website provides social studies teachers with access to thousands of free resources, including short current events videos, Lesson Plans and Bell Ringers, plus Constitution Clips and On This Day in History events. Follow [C-SPAN Classroom](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook @CSPANClassroom](#).

About C-SPAN:

C-SPAN, the public affairs network providing Americans with unfiltered access to congressional proceedings, was created in 1979 as a public service by the cable television industry and is now funded through fees paid by cable and satellite companies that provide C-SPAN programming. C-SPAN connects with millions of Americans through its three commercial-free TV networks, C-SPAN Radio, the C-SPAN Radio App, [C-SPAN.org](#) and various social media platforms. C-SPAN's robust public affairs programming includes national and international public policy conversations; signature call-in programs, such as its popular morning show *Washington Journal*; book and author discussions on C-SPAN2's Book TV; a chronicle of America's past on C-SPAN3's American History TV; and more. The network's video-rich website contains nearly 260,000 hours of searchable and shareable content, archived since 1987 for educational and reporting purpose. C-SPAN can be seen in the community at book fairs, social studies and teacher conferences, and historical events; visiting landmarks across the country with the C-SPAN Cities Tour; or bringing the 45-foot C-SPAN Bus to hundreds of schools nationwide. Learn more about C-SPAN at [www.c-span.org/about/faq/](#). Engage with C-SPAN on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#), and stay connected through weekly and daily [newsletters](#).

CONTACTS:

Pam McGorry – 202.626.4861, pmcgorry@c-span.org

Robin Newton – 202.626.8910, rnewton@c-span.org

###