Welcome to Summer Institute 2008 at University of Northern Colorado, offered through Teaching with Primary Sources – Colorado Rural Partnership!

Congratulations on completing Essentials Exploration (Level One) workshops and joining our Advanced Applications (Level 2) Institute. We have selected the theme *The Fabric of our Lives: Weaving the American Tapestry* not only to represent the content you will be exploring, but also as a metaphor for the threads of exploration that will be woven into our three days together. Here is a quick look at the “weaving” you’ll be doing:

**Library of Congress online content:** First, we’ll provide opportunities for you to encounter - across the centuries - people and ideas that have come together to create the American story.

The first exploration focuses on *Creating the US*, a current exhibition at the Library that focuses on drafts of three key founding documents that “were forged out of insight, invention, and creativity, as well as collaboration and much compromise.” Our second set of explorations provides a look at the experience of immigration in the 19th century, as we consider how this new generation of Americans was inspired to come to this land by the principles of liberty embodied in those founding documents.

**21st century literacies:** As you explore this content, you’ll be gaining and applying knowledge about a variety of literacies that are supported and strengthened through primary source investigations. You’ll find ways to analyze sources through the lenses of reading and writing, visual literacy, media literacy and information literacy.

**Evaluating and creating lesson plans:** Your primary focus for the class will be to apply what you are learning to your own content area and to create a publishable quality lesson plan that demonstrates exemplary practices for integrating primary sources into learning. You’ll have an opportunity to critique other lesson plans, consider elements from model explorations and literacy frameworks, and engage in peer reviews to strengthen your lesson plans. Please note: your lesson plan does NOT have to follow the theme of weaving the American tapestry; you are to use your own content, your background knowledge and your pedagogical content expertise to develop a lesson that will be meaningful to your students.

We trust your experience will be a rich one as you weave together creative experiences and a growing expertise in primary sources, the Library of Congress website, and 21st century literacies. We will also be encouraging you to share your next steps with us as you implement your lesson plan and continue to develop critical thinking in your students.