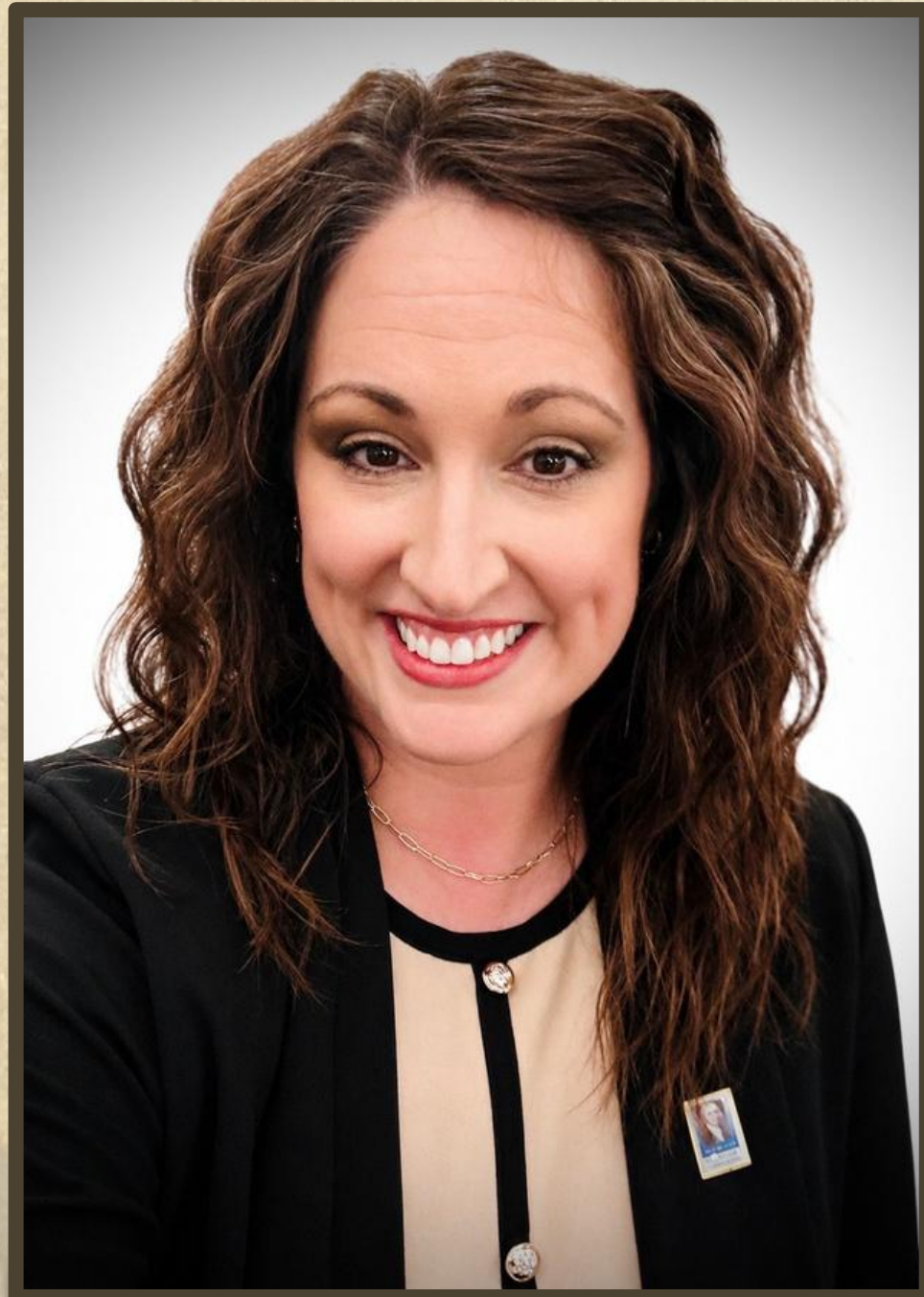


HOME GROWN LEGENDS



Place-based Projects
Connecting Students to
their Local History
Community

with

Carlin Fleming-Smock
Carmi White-County
High School
Carmi, Illinois

About Me...

- High School history teacher for 17 years
- Sponsor of the CWC Historians Club
- White County Historical Society Board member
- Illinois State Historical Society Advisory Board Member
- Girls Golf Coach



- 2023 Celia B. Godsil Grants in Place-- Illinois Fellow
- 2024 Fellows' Fellow- James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation
- 2025 Carmi Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year
- 2026 Illinois History Teacher of the Year- Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
- Question Writer & Regional Judge- 1776 Presidential Award



Today's Objectives...

- Explain what place-based learning is

- Discuss the steps to getting started

- Identify the benefits for students and the community

- Moves lessons outside of the traditional classroom setting and into local community
- Connects local history to the wider story of America
- Provides students hands-on activities and experiences
- Can be challenging in rural areas

What is **PLACE-BASED LEARNING?**



My Story...

- It started with a typewriter...
- ANTIQUES changed everything!

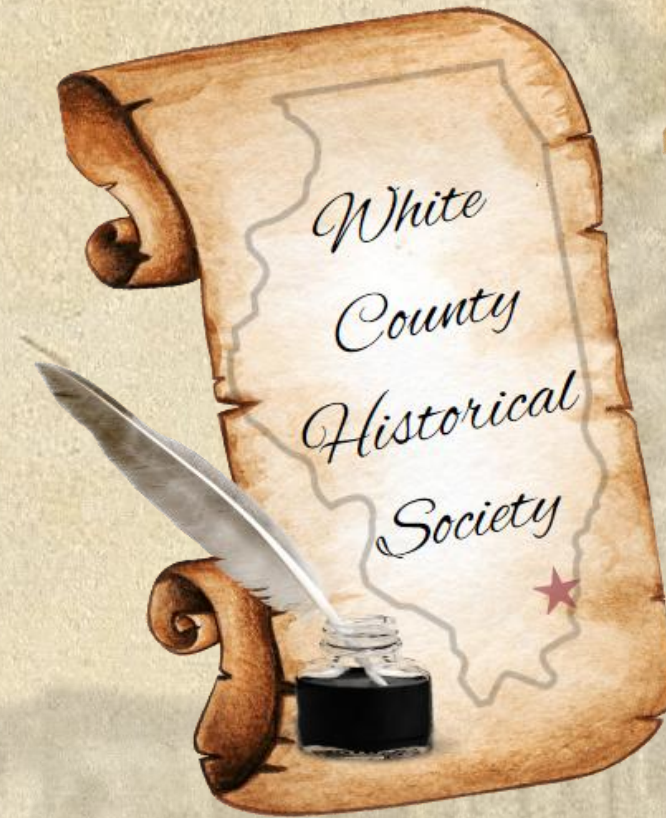


My Story...



My Story...

- White County Historical Society needed help
 - Museum clean-up
 - elementary event facilitation
 - Community event openings
- Students were willing and interested
- Started a history club
 - CWC Historians



MUSEUM & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Common Activities...

- Man Musuems on Festival Days
- 5th Grade Pioneer Days
- 2nd Grade Tea Parties
- Veteran event help as needed
- Museum Cleaning Days
- Serving at the Historical Society Dinner Meetings



VIDEO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS...

What types of video projects do we do?

- Historic Sites
- Major Events
- Key Figures
- Current Project:
Carmi 100 Years Later



PLACE-BASED LEARNING?

*Where do
I start?!*



WHERE DO I START?

What organizations do you have access to?

- Historical Societies
- Museums
- Genealogy Societies
- National Parks or Forrests
- Retired Teacher Associations
- Library Associations
- Veterans Organization (VFW, American Legion)

Museum
Clean-up Day



'Welcome Home' Parade
Southern Indiana Honor Flight
Evansville Regional Airport



Serving @ the Veteran's Breakfast-
American Legion

WHERE DO I START?

Talk to your Administration

- What types of activities/projects are you interested in doing?
- Is there time needed outside of class?
- Are there resources available within the school that could help?
- Are there any stakeholders who could help?



Mr. King- Principal
Mr. Knight- Dean of Students

WHERE DO I START?

Start Small !

- For Clubs...
 - Don't be discouraged if it starts small!
It will probably be easier that way!
 - Create incentives for participation!
- For Class Projects...
 - Create an example of what you are looking for
 - For items that will be 'used' within the public/community, establish that excellence is needed/expected (Not all projects make it to the museums)

Year 1- 12 Students Qualified



Year 4- 46 Students Qualified!



PLACE-BASED LEARNING?

Benefits!



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

PLACE-BASED LEARNING?

- Bridges Generational Gaps
- Gives students an opportunity for leadership AND ownership
- Filling a need in the community
- Helps students get to know community members (jobs, scholarships, etc...)



Questions?

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