

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL TEACHERS

PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 22, 2006) – The National Constitution Center, in conjunction with the blockbuster exhibition *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, will present a teacher workshop, “Franklin and American Identity”, on Saturday March 11, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., sponsored by PECO, an Exelon Company. “Franklin and American Identity” will offer educators an opportunity to look into the life of Franklin through his autobiography. University of Pennsylvania professor of History Michael Zuckerman will lead the workshop by interpreting the lessons Franklin himself learned and tried to teach.

Only covering the first half of his incredible life, Franklin wrote his autobiography as a letter of instruction on the ways of the world to his son. It has been considered one of the finest autobiographies ever written in any language. Educators will be able to draw from Franklin’s instruction and his account of a pre-revolutionary America and incorporate them into their own classroom teachings.

Michael Zuckerman is Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches a wide range of courses from early America to the modern day. His articles have appeared in numerous journals and he is the author of *Peaceable Kingdoms: New England Towns in the Eighteenth Century* and *Almost Chosen People: Oblique Biographies in the American Grain*. Dr. Zuckerman received his Ph.D in American Studies from Harvard University.

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## ADD ONE/TEACHER WORKSHOP

“Franklin and American Identity” is the third of four workshops offered to educators during the *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* exhibition. The final workshop, “The Spirit of Compromise and the Constitutional Convention”, will be held on April 8, 2006. Each workshop is open to 50 teachers from the School District of Philadelphia and the tri-county area and will be held on Saturdays. These workshops are also supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services.

Registration is \$20 and includes admission to the blockbuster exhibit *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, resources and materials, and Act48 Continuing Education credit hours for those who qualify. To register, visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org) to download the registration form or call 215.409.6700.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, “Freedom Rising”. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and is a partner of NPR’s “Justice Talking,” a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

*Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin’s 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.gophila.com/ben](http://www.gophila.com/ben).