

WKU Board of Regents Approves Civil War Center

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Bowling Green, Ky. – The Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University (WKU) has approved the creation of a Center for the Study of the Civil War in the West. The Center will be housed in the History Department with support from the Frockt Family Professorship in History. The proposal for the establishment of the Center was made by the History Department.

The Center for the Study of the Civil War in the West at WKU will advance the cause of scholarship and public understanding of the important part played by the western theater in the conflict between North and South. The purpose of the Center is to investigate, document, interpret, and teach about the Civil War in the West. The Center emphasizes the interdisciplinary investigation and documentation of the Civil War in the West as a culturally, historically, geographically, and demographically complex field of study. The Center will promote research on aspects of the war in the western theater by supporting the work of its faculty, staff, students, and visiting scholars. It will offer to the public, as well as to the academic community, opportunities for increasing knowledge of the Civil War in the West (and particularly in Kentucky) through conferences, lectures, credit courses, publications, tours, and archival access (including the collections of the Kentucky Library and Museum and primary sources made available through the Center's future website). The Center's intent is to become a focal point for innovative education and research on the history of the Civil War in the West, thus strengthening WKU's program in the humanities, promoting interdisciplinary scholarship in many aspects of Civil War history and memory, and encouraging public understanding of this rich field of study.

Among the most important purposes of the Center is to enhance WKU's efforts as "a leading American university with international reach." The Center will provide a vital component in facilitating Civil War scholarship, communicating that scholarship to a wide audience, building stronger ties with area schools and the region's secondary school teachers, strengthening the History Department's graduate program, and generating income for our academic mission through scholarly and public institutes, summer workshops, and publications. The operation of the Center will also take into account the development of programs that will become self-sustaining and that might also provide significant revenue for the expansion of existing projects and the creation of new ones.