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LaRue teacher studies Constitution in D.C.

KATHERINE KNOTT The News-Enterprise Jul 9, 2018 Updated 2 hrs ago

BRYAN

A LaRue County High School teacher is spending four weeks this summer visiting sights and landmarks around Washington, D.C., as he learns more about the Constitution.

Kendrick Bryan, a social studies teacher, is studying at Georgetown University this summer as part of a fellowship through the James Madison Memorial Foundation.

The fellowship is for educators earning a master's degree who want to "become outstanding teachers of the American Constitution at the secondary school level," according to the foundation's website.

The fellowship accepts one student per state. Bryan said he is the first from LaRue County to participate and the 23rd teacher from Kentucky.

"It's an excellent opportunity for teachers," he said. "I hope more teachers apply."

Bryan said the fellowship is paying for his master's degree in history at Western Kentucky University. As he is working toward the degree, he will be able to teach a dual-credit history class at LaRue County in which students also can earn college credit.

"I always wanted to teach dual credit," Bryan said. "It's a great opportunity for students."

As part of the fellowship, Bryan is attending a Summer Institute on the Constitution. He said the program will improve his storytelling in class.

"It's putting a face and place on what I talk about," he said.

Bryan has one week left in Washington. So far, he has participated in a question-and-answer session with Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and has sat in the House and Senate galleries. He also has visited Montpelier, Monticello and Mount Vernon.

At Mount Vernon, Bryan said they heard a lecture about George Washington, which was a highlight for him.

“It explored more about what he learned at home and his love of agriculture,” he said. “We don’t study that in class.”

A trip to the White House and National Museum of African American History and Culture also are on the schedule.

The goal of the foundation and the fellowship is to improve teaching about the U.S. Constitution in high schools, according to the website.

Bryan said the program has given him access to more resources he can take back to LaRue County.

“The kids will have a greater resource and be more informed about the Constitution,” he said.

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