

April 25, 2017



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A banner image showing a desert landscape with mountains in the background and a yucca plant in the foreground. The text is overlaid on a dark grey rectangular area on the left side of the image.

**TALES FROM THE
CHIHUAHUAN DESERT:**
A NEH Summer Institute

2017 Summer Institute Essential Questions and Learning Outcomes

Essential Questions

Three **essential questions** will guide our discussions during our time together in the Institute:

1. How can the study of the Chihuahuan Desert, of its history and its people, help us tell a more complete story of the American experience?
2. What can we learn about the histories and literatures of border people by examining their stories?
3. How does binationalism inform border people's cultures and literary production?

Learning Outcomes

The five **learning outcomes** for our Institute are as follows:

- a. To explore the range and variety of literature created by writers from the Chihuahuan Desert, both classic and contemporary;
- b. To achieve an understanding of the histories and cultures of a region often stereotyped and misunderstood;
- c. To provide professional learning opportunities for teachers so that they can become better educators;
- d. To encourage teachers, who will be from across the country and from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, to engage each other in thinking critically about important issues in order to expand the intellectual depth and experience of all teachers; and
- e. To broaden teachers' experience and understanding of the humanities as they are challenged through the historical and literary narratives explored in the Institute and through the activities and events experienced during the two-week Institute.