

# WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES?

## FOR STARTERS, HOW ABOUT MORE THOUGHTFUL, MORE EFFECTIVE TEACHERS?

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency that supports the disciplines that teach us more about the human condition. Created in 1965, it's one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. For Boston University, it means \$436,000 in grants to help provide essential resources and services to educators across the state and around the world.

### ■ APPLYING GREAT THOUGHTS TO CREATE GREAT K-12 CLASSROOMS.

Why do we teach? And why do we teach *what* we teach? These are just two of the fundamental questions BU Research Scholar Peter Gibbon raised over three weeks in the summer seminar, "Philosophers of Education: Major Thinkers from the Enlightenment to the Postmodern Era." The ideas of these great thinkers aren't just academic; teachers were encouraged to find ways to apply these ideas and principles to K-12 education. So the real beneficiaries of the NEH-backed program will be our children.

### ■ CREATING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS IN A CRITICAL COUNTRY.

Turkey is the bridge between East and West. Simply put, it is important. One way these ties are strengthened is through an archaeological project seeking to preserve both the ancestral culture and natural environment in the Gediz Valley. "Bronze Age Cultural Dynamics, Sustainability, and Landscapes in the Marmara Lake Basin" is a three-year excavation of a Bronze Age resort area conducted by Boston University faculty Christina Luke and Christopher Roosevelt. Generous support from the NEH helps make it possible. International understanding makes it critical.

### ■ BEYOND SCIENCE: ANALYZING HUMAN BEHAVIOR THROUGH LITERATURE.

Why do people do what they do? Science has attempted to answer that question for decades. But artists and philosophers have been just as consumed by the question, with equally compelling results. Professor Robert Chodat is studying post-World War II authors like Ralph Ellison, Walker Percy, Stanley Cavell, Marilynne Robinson, and David Foster Wallace to understand how their literature fits in with our understanding of ourselves. He questions how our descriptions of our experience relate to the arguments and theories we formulate about it. What we think reveals as much as what we do.

---

We hope you'll give strong consideration to supporting funding for the NEH. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further the role the NEH plays in our daily lives, please visit [bu.edu/federal](https://bu.edu/federal).



**BOSTON UNIVERSITY** IS CREATING BETTER TEACHERS BY HELPING THEM UNDERSTAND THE IDEAS OF EDUCATION'S GREATEST PHILOSOPHERS.