

During my ten years as Vice President for Education at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, Nancy Hayward served with the highest distinction as our department's Director of Education Programs.

One of her primary responsibilities was to run our professional development programs for precollegiate teachers. These programs, which provided teachers from across the country with the opportunity to learn from leading historians and master teachers/museum educators, were conducted both as "Residential Institutes" on the Estate and as "Regional Workshops" in local communities. Under Nancy's watch, we sponsored five Residential Institutes and three Regional Workshops annually. Nancy developed the curricula and accompanying materials for these programs, selected the participating scholars, and oversaw all of the administrative details. In addition, she managed collaborations with such premier outside organizations as the Gilder Lehrman Institute, the National Archives & Record Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and others, to expand the Estate's reach to teachers nationwide. Moreover, she hosted an annual Educator's Evening for local teachers, school administrators, and home educators. A crowning event of every summer is a two-day extravaganza, where teachers come from as far away as Massachusetts and Arkansas, Florida and Oklahoma to hear top historians speak on a variety of George Washington-related topics. Together these programs – supported by private funding – directly reached hundreds of teachers annually.

During my time at Mount Vernon, Nancy also proved herself in the field of distance learning through a partnership with the Fairfax Learning Network, broadcasting imaginative and highly-rated programs annually to tens of millions of students and teachers across the country. It speaks to the quality of these highly-rated interactive broadcasts that she was able to convince such luminaries as Cokie Roberts, David McCullough, and Kathleen Matthews to serve as moderators.

Besides the above-mentioned programs, Nancy ran a popular evening for high school students and an awards competition for the "Mount Vernon Teacher of the Year." In addition, she wrote the script for a Mount Vernon audio tour, served as liaison to the director of *National Treasure II*, for the portion of the film that was filmed at Mount Vernon, and played a key role in training the Estate's Historic Interpreters.

Nancy Hayward is a professional of a very high caliber. She has the initiative, drive, imagination, skills, and intelligence to accomplish whatever the challenge in her chosen field of museum education. I enthusiastically recommend her for any position she may wish to seek.

Ann Bay

Former Vice President of Education, Mount Vernon

Alexandria, Virginia