



## NCPTT News Release

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# AREA TEACHERS LEARN TO USE CEMETERIES AS TEACHING TOOLS

Cemeteries are valuable tools for learning lessons about an area's history, but can they be used to teach lessons about culture, language and even math? Area teachers attending the Heritage Education – Louisiana workshops this month are learning how to incorporate cemetery studies into every area of the curriculum while creating a fun learning environment for students.

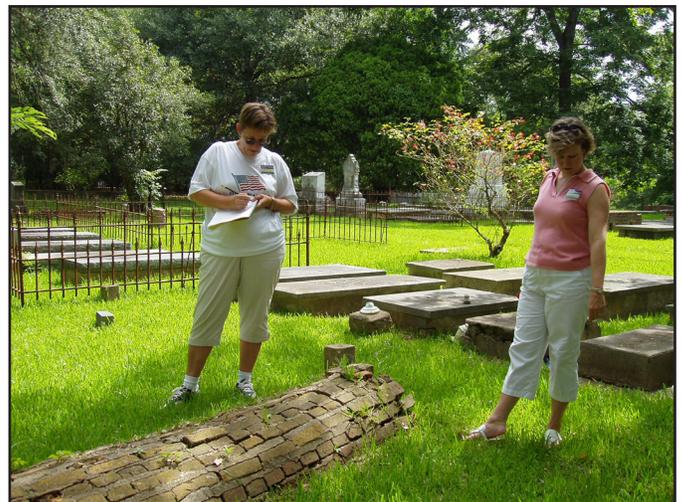
The first workshop was held in Natchitoches July 6. Teachers learned how to create cemetery-themed lessons that meet state education standards and benchmarks, including LEAP. This standards-based approach makes them truly useful in the classroom, and not just a fun add-on.

“Beyond their obvious historical impact, cemeteries can teach lessons about science, for example, by studying the composition of materials in the gravemarkers, and local weather patterns by observing the wear of the markers” Sheila Richmond, Heritage Education – Louisiana program manager, said. “Math skills are used for the date patterns and ages. Even English is used when it comes to studying epitaphs and other markings.”

Staff from Northwestern State University of Louisiana's College of Education aid in the development and delivery of the workshops, ensuring development hours for teachers.

Natchitoches is one of only four workshops to be held in the state this month. Other workshops are being held in Ruston, Abbeville and Metairie.

Heritage Education – Louisiana, a program of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, was established by the National Park Service in 2000 to help children develop an appreciation and responsibility for the buildings and cultural landscapes where they live. In addition to its workshops, the program has awarded more than \$150,000 in Mini Grants to teachers for the development of innovative heritage education lessons and activities. Heritage Education – Louisiana is located on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. For more information, call 356-7444 or visit the website: [www.heritage-ed.com](http://www.heritage-ed.com).



Youree Drive Middle School Teachers Donna Kelly and Leslie Acree were among the educators learning to use local cemeteries to teach students about their heritage during the July 6 Heritage Education – Louisiana Workshop held at American Cemetery in Natchitoches.