Overview of the Community:

This faculty learning community is a core element of the Year of Cuba (YoC). Up to six faculty will be selected for a 2.5 year commitment to actively help in planning for the Year of Cuba and work to develop a deeper understanding of Cuba in all its complexity through diverse disciplinary perspectives. The community will serve to connect faculty across disciplines in an exchange of ideas based on discussions of common readings, attendance at events, development of teaching modules on Cuba, and team-teaching a special YoC Course that includes leading students on a seminar to Cuba.

During the first half year (Spring 2018), FLC faculty will begin preparing modules/course materials/readings for use in their classes. During the planning year (Fa18-Sp19), FLC faculty will actively participate in the planning committee. Also during the planning year, FLC faculty will identify and begin preparing modules/course materials/readings for the ACSP team-taught course and begin recruitment of students for the course and travel abroad component that will be team-taught in the Spring of 2020. In the Spring Semester of the planning year, the six FLC faculty will finalize the syllabus for the team-taught YoC course. In the Fall semester of the implementation year, they will attend YoC events and recruit students in preparation for the Study Abroad Seminar to Cuba.

Faculty are expected to incorporate appropriate Year of Cuba events into their syllabi for both the fall and spring semester courses encouraging greater participation. They will also be responsible for recruiting and mentoring student participants in the YoC spring semester course and seminar to Cuba. The YoC course will have two course identifiers, differentiating two types of learning experiences for registered students. A select group of students would register for a course that would require travel abroad on the Faculty/Student Seminar Abroad while students who do not want to travel abroad will register for a course with additional experiential learning requirements in lieu of the travel abroad. These courses will meet concurrently at a regularly scheduled time. Departments are encouraged to cross-list these classes.

The Study Abroad Seminar to Cuba may also contribute to the development of future exchanges, joint research, and study abroad programs with partners in Cuba. Participants will be encouraged to present in the YoC series, present a topic of interest to colleagues in Cuba, and/or write a paper for possible publication in the Journal of Global Initiatives Special Issue on Cuba or other journals.

Participants are encouraged to attend as many YoC events as possible. YoC Faculty Learning Community participants will meet once a month throughout the two-year period in order to plan and prepare for the program, offer the team-taught YoC course, and develop the Study Abroad Seminar to Cuba. Participants are expected to be actively engaged throughout the planning process, attend YoC events, and attend required FLC course planning meetings.

All participants are required to submit a final report reflecting on and evaluating the Year of Cuba learning community experience including an outline of specific plans for future projects and follow-up.
Application

Application should be submitted electronically to Dan Paracka at dparacka@kennesaw.edu and are due at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 29, 2017.

Selection Criteria
This learning community is intended for faculty who will represent their college on the YoC Planning Committee and assist:

- planning for the Year of Cuba at KSU;
- promoting and supporting College Spotlight proposal submissions;
- incorporating Cuba related topics into existing courses;
- developing and teaching an interdisciplinary team-taught YoC course;
- interested in developing research on or partnerships with colleagues in Cuba or with the local Cuban American community;
- recruiting and accompanying students for the Seminar to Cuba.

The Annual Country Study Program Faculty Advisory Board will review applications and select participants. Emphasis will be placed on broad disciplinary representation among participants.

For the application, please write a short essay (2-3 pages) in which you address

- your involvement with/interest in the Year of Cuba;
- how you plan to incorporate the YoC experience into your course work or other professional activities at KSU;
- the kind of curricular, research, and/or partnership project(s) you envision developing (be as specific as possible).

Applications also require a letter of support from your department chair and/or dean. Letters should indicate approval for course release, approval to team-teach a YoC spring course as part of regular teaching load, and financial support for travel. Departments/Colleges are expected to provide a minimum of one course release during the 2 year (structuring/implementation) period and $1500 in faculty travel funding to accompany students travelling to Cuba (DGA will also provide $1500).

All participants are required to submit a final report reflecting on and evaluating the Year of Cuba learning community experience including an outline of specific plans for future projects and follow-up.

*Note: Up to six faculty will be selected to participate in the YoC Learning Community and eligible to receive $1500 from DGA towards their participation in the Faculty/Student Development Seminar to Cuba in the Spring of YoC. The estimated cost of the Faculty Development Seminar will be $3000.00 and includes roundtrip airfare, lodging, and some meals. If for some reason, you are unable to attend the required FLC group meetings, you will forfeit this funding.