



Essex Middle School Teacher Nominated for National History Day Teacher of the Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO, March 26, 2020 –

Rebecca Arnold, a teacher at Richland Elementary School in Essex, Missouri, was nominated for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award given by National History Day, an organization that hosts the national competition in Maryland annually. Each of the 58 National History Day affiliates may nominate one middle school teacher for this award. Arnold is the junior division nominee from Missouri. Each nominee for the \$10,000 award is a teacher who demonstrates a commitment to engaging students in historical learning through innovative use of primary sources, implementation of active learning strategies to foster historical thinking skills, and participation in the National History Day Contest. All nominees will receive \$500, each.

Arnold said the recognition caught her totally by surprise and that she is humbled to receive the honor. “National History Day has changed my teaching style by completely flipping my classroom and watching my students become researchers and educators,” said Arnold. “Not only do my students ask to practice interviewing or performing, but they are excited to share their knowledge!”

The national winner will be selected by a committee of experienced teachers and historians, and will be announced on June 18, 2020, at the National History Day National Contest Awards Ceremony. National History Day in Missouri coordinator Danielle Griego, PhD, said the program would not be possible without the support of dedicated teachers.

“Rebecca Arnold spends many hours during and after school to help her students learn history in innovative ways,” said Griego. “And, she supports other teachers who are interested in the NHD in Missouri program.” Courtney Kisat, the NHD regional coordinator in Cape Girardeau agreed, saying that Arnold’s students are always well-prepared for contest season.

About National History Day in Missouri:

Launched in 1980, National History Day in Missouri is the state affiliate of the National History Day educational program, which has half a million participants annually. Over 5,000 students compete in the Missouri program, with 600 advancing to the state competition. National History Day in Missouri is sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri. Visit: nhdmo.org

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