



Missouri Students Receive Top Honors at the 2020 Virtual National History Day Contest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO, June 24, 2020 – Fifty-seven Missouri students recently competed in the 2020 National History Day contest, which was held online this year. The national contest is usually held at the University of Maryland, College Park, but was moved to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student teams from Missouri received outstanding entry awards, special prizes, and were selected for a documentary showcase. One team made it to the finalist round of their category. In addition, Rebecca Arnold, a teacher at Richland Elementary School in Essex made it to the finals of the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award. The award goes to 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.

This year's contest theme was "Breaking Barriers in History." Here are the Missouri students who received awards at the national contest:



Finalist:

Senior Group Exhibit: Johanna Jeyaraj, Sonia Carlson, and Sydney Stamps (**Thomas Jefferson Independent School, Joplin**), "Thomas Hart Benton: Breaking Political Barriers through Art"

Outstanding Entry Awards:

Junior Group Exhibit: Kadin Carlisle and Reiley Calvert (**Risco High School, Risco**),
“There’s More to Life than Being a Passenger: Amelia Earhart Breaking Barriers for Women”

Senior Individual Performance: Katherine Mackenzie (**Liberty North High School, Liberty**),
“Sesame Street: Expanding the Neighborhood”

World War II History Prize:

Junior Individual Performance: Louisa Blackmoore (**Wydown Middle School, St. Louis**),
“The Remarkable Ruby Bradley.”

American Labor History Prize:

Senior Group Documentary: Chelsea Swasho and Rylee Taylor (**Richland High School, Essex**),
“Freedom Found on a Bootheel Roadside: The 1939 Sharecroppers Strike.”

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History 2020 Digital Documentary Showcase:

Senior Individual Documentary: Ian Morgan (**Central High School, Springfield**),
“Gaines v. Canada: The NAACP’s Legal Strategy to End Segregation in Education”

Senior Group Documentary: Chelsea Swasho and Rylee Taylor (**Richland High School, Essex**),
“Freedom Found on a Bootheel Roadside: The 1939 Sharecroppers Strike”

Danielle Griego, program coordinator for NHD in Missouri, said the students adapted well to the virtual format for both the state and national contest this year, which was unprecedented.

“Their hard work, dedication, and willingness to think outside of the box is truly impressive. They broke barriers and made history. We are all very proud,” said Griego.

For a complete listing of this year’s awards at the state and national contest, visit nhdmo.org. The State Historical Society of Missouri sponsors and organizes the National History Day in Missouri program, which involves over 5,000 Missouri students each year.

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