

Behring Teacher Ambassadors Announced!

WASHINGTON, D.C. – National History Day (NHD) announced this morning the 36 teachers selected as Behring Teacher Ambassadors. Local teacher Dawn McKenzie from Albuquerque Christian School is one of two teachers selected to represent New Mexico.

“NHD is a passion for me,” said McKenzie. “It has become a fixture in our school for the past nine years, and my students have grown unbelievably through participation in the program. The internalization of history, which comes through research, comprehension, and analysis changes students forever! No longer are they content to skim over the surface of historical events. No longer are they willing to take historical instruction at face value. No longer are they satisfied to simply be passive learners. History Day changes all that. The student becomes an engaged, creative participant in history, with the knowledge that history is living and breathing and they, themselves, are a part of it. I want to use my involvement as a Behring Ambassador to spread the word about National History Day. I want others to understand what a rich tool we educators have at our fingertips to teach and shape and touch the future.”

The teachers selected have shown outstanding creativity, commitment, and inspiration in developing students’ interest in history. Each regional winner will be awarded \$1,000 stipend for their participation and service as an ambassador. Middle and high school teachers are nominated by their administrators, peers, or self for the award. Candidates must be classroom teachers interested in NHD programs, who have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, or be past Behring Teacher award winners.

Next year the 2014–2015 NHD theme is Leadership & Legacy in History. Behring Teacher Ambassadors will work with students and teachers to help them better understand this theme and to expand NHD programs in their region. Participating teachers, will attend a training workshop in August, collaborate with their program’s NHD affiliates coordinator to develop a working plan, and implement an action plan to support and expand NHD activities.

“National History Day firmly believes that quality teachers are the best educational tools that students have,” said NHD Executive Director Cathy Gorn. “The history teachers selected as Behring Teacher Ambassadors understand the impact the NHD program has on their students. They are a

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credit to their discipline and a driving force behind the success of NHD programs.”

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NHD is a non-profit education organization based out of College Park, MD. Established in 1974, NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million primary and secondary students around the world in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. These research-based projects are entered into local affiliate contests, where the top student projects have the opportunity to advance to the national competition at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD also seeks to improve the quality of history education by providing professional development opportunities for educators. NHD is sponsored in part by the History Channel, Kenneth E. Behring, Weider History Group, Inc., WEM Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Southwest Airlines. For more information about NHD, visit www.nhd.org.

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