



NEWS RELEASE

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KANSAS STUDENTS ADVANCE TO NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

TOPEKA, KS—At today's Kansas History Day competition, fifty-five students were selected to advance to National History Day History Day, June 15-19, at the University of Maryland, College Park, near Washington, D.C. Nearly 225 students explored the theme of *Conflict & Compromise* and participated in one of 17 topics. This is the 26th year of the program in Kansas.

Travis Lamb received the Kansas History Day Teacher of the Year Award. Lamb is a history and geography teacher at Topeka Collegiate School. He focuses on teaching his students how to study on their own, to think outside the box, and to continue to learn outside of the classroom. He has been described as someone who is stimulating, and motivation to his students, as well as being someone who teachers from his heart. He makes history come alive for his students by the way he describes historical events. Lamb is generous with his personal time, spending a considerable amount helping students with their various projects. He will be nominated for the National History Day Richard Farrell Teachers of Merit Award.

Cassandra Blackwell, Seaman High School, received \$50 for the Bleeding Kansas Award sponsored by the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area for her senior individual performance, "James Lane: The Conflicted Life of a U.s. Senator and the Compromises He Made."

Ben Goossen, Washburn Rural High School, received \$100 for the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City History Award for his senior historical paper, "A Voice of Reason in Uncompromising Times: James Hanway's Kansas."

Dylan Cox and **Thomas Coates**, Topeka Collegiate, received \$75 for the Society for American Baseball Research Prize for their junior group exhibit, "Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey: Compromising for Equality."

Each year, students statewide in grades six through 12 select topics based on the History Day theme. They spend the school year working, researching, and tracking primary and secondary sources and compete in junior and senior categories of performances, documentaries, papers, or exhibits. New this year is a website category. Students compete as individuals and as school teams. They are challenged to demonstrate their knowledge about the historical context of their chosen subject and to interpret and

analyze the importance of the person, idea, or event in history. Kansas students rank among the top states at National History Day with 56 medals and five scholarships during the program's 26 years.

Kansas History Day is administered by the Kansas Historical Society with additional support from the Washburn University. For further information contact Kansas History Day co-coordinator Letha Johnson, 785-272-8681, ext. 306, ljohnson@kshs.org. The Kansas Historical Society is a state agency headquartered in Topeka. For more information visit kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

NOTE: A list of History Day finalists from your district follows this page. These students will be competing in National History Day, June 15-19, at the University of Maryland, College Park, near Washington, D.C.