



THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY



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CONTACT:

Kathleen Wesner

wesner@gilderlehrman.org

Tel.: (646) 366-9666 x28

Fax: (646) 366-9669

2012 National History Teacher of the Year Finalists Announced

New York, NY (September 17, 2012)—The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History announced the five finalists for the 2012 National History Teacher of the Year Award today. They are, in alphabetical order by state: Julian Hipkins III of Capital City Public Charter School in the District of Columbia; Amy Perruso of Mililani High School in Mililani, Hawaii; Joshua Bill of Waukegan High School in Waukegan, Illinois; Ted Dickson of Providence Day School in Charlotte, North Carolina; and Jan McClaren of Claremore High School in Claremore, Oklahoma. The National History Teacher of the Year Award, co-sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, HISTORY®, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on behalf of its Preserve America program, carries a \$10,000 prize. The winner will be announced at a ceremony this fall.

“We are pleased to announce these finalists, first identified by nominations submitted from around the country, and now selected as the most remarkable in the nation from the group of fifty-plus state winners,” said Lesley Herrmann, Executive Director of the Gilder Lehrman Institute. “Each of them represents the very best teaching that this country has to offer, and they should be celebrated for their accomplishments.”

“HISTORY is proud to join the Gilder Lehrman Institute in recognizing these outstanding teachers,” said Dr. Libby O’Connell, SVP Corporate Outreach and Chief Historian at HISTORY. “They exemplify the best in history education, and we are proud to honor them through these awards.”

The National History Teacher of the Year Award program recognizes the country’s most outstanding American history teachers in elementary, middle, and high school classrooms. The national winner is chosen from a pool of winners from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, US Territories, and Department of Defense Schools. Each year, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History administers the award by identifying exemplary history educators who use primary documents, artifacts, historic sites, and other historical resources to address literacy and content beyond state standards. Each state honoree receives \$1,000 and an archive of books and resources from Gilder Lehrman and HISTORY for his or her school’s library.

“History Teacher of the Year nominees are exceptionally gifted educators who bring history to life for their students and build links between schools and their communities. The ACHP congratulates and commends them,” said Dr. Clement A. Price, ACHP Vice Chair, Board of Governors Distinguished

Service Professor of History, and the founder and Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience at Rutgers University, Newark Campus.

The panel of judges that selected the five finalists for the 2012 National History Teacher of the Year Award included Elaine Reed, former executive director of the National Council for History Education; Stacy Hoeflich, the 2011 National History Teacher of the Year; and Edward Ayers, President of the University of Richmond.

About the Five Finalists

District of Columbia

Julian Hipkins III is an eleventh grade teacher at Capital City Public Charter School. He initiated his school's participation in the National History Day and "We the People" competitions, and in June 2012 he travelled to Normandy, France, as part of the Albert H. Small Student and Teacher Institute through National History Day. Mr. Hipkins engages his students through guest speakers including an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima who spoke to students through a Skype videoconference from Japan. Mr. Hipkins has been teaching at Capital City Public Charter School since 2007 after having taught English in Japan.

Hawaii

Amy Perruso is the social studies department head and teaches a range of courses at Mililani High School in Hawaii. Teaching since 2001, she uses current local academic scholarship and newly available primary sources in Hawaii to reframe questions of historical interpretation in the secondary social studies classroom. Mrs. Perruso's students excel in National History Day competitions and have developed and implemented an expanding program of History Day workshops for elementary students in their district. Her students have led Mililani High School to consecutive state championships in Mock Trial and "We the People," and they have also testified in state legislative hearings about the importance of historical and civic education in Hawaii.

Illinois

Joshua Bill has been a teacher at Waukegan High School in Waukegan, Illinois, since 2004. Mr. Bill has led his students to success at the Chicago Metro History Fair and in the National History Day competition. He has formed a strong partnership with the Waukegan Historical Society, where students conduct research for the history fair and other projects. Several of his students' projects have gone beyond the competition to make lasting contributions to the local community. Mr. Bill serves as a coach for the "We the People" Simulated Congressional Hearings Competitions and is active in mentoring new and future teachers through his alma mater, Lake Forest College. He was the recipient of the 2012 Olive Foster Outstanding Teacher Award from the Illinois State Historical Society for his commitment to state and local history.

North Carolina

Ted Dickson teaches American history and serves as the history department chair at Providence Day School in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Dickson is in his thirtieth year of teaching. He teaches a range of courses, including AP US History, and has created popular electives on the Civil War and the 1960s. Mr. Dickson's students participate in role-playing simulations and conduct research on their own family histories. Mr. Dickson is the co-chair of the AP US History Curriculum Development and Assessment Committee and was the co-editor of the book *America on the World Stage: A Global Approach to United States History*.

Oklahoma

Jan McClaren teaches American history at Claremore High School in Claremore, Oklahoma. Ms. McClaren has been teaching for twenty-six years. Her students participate in hands-on history projects that include a storytelling festival, conversations with World War II veterans, and a guide to the local history of Claremore. Ms. McClaren was named the first George Washington Teaching Ambassador by George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and traveled the state of Oklahoma educating teachers and students about the nation's first president.

Nominations are open year round for grades K-12

Nominations can be made by a student, parent, colleague, supervisor, or other education professional who is familiar with the teacher's work. To be considered for the 2013 award, elementary teachers must be nominated by February 1, 2013. For more information about the nomination process for 2013, visit www.gilderlehrman.org/nhtoy.

About the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization devoted to the improvement of history education. The Institute has developed an array of programs for schools, teachers, and students that now operate in all fifty states, including a website that features the 60,000 unique historical documents in the Gilder Lehrman Collection, www.gilderlehrman.org. Each year the Institute offers support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers, and through them enhances the education of more than a million students. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment of the Humanities, and the Organization of American Historians.

About HISTORY®

HISTORY® and HISTORY HD® are the leading destinations for revealing, award-winning original non-fiction series and event specials that connect history with viewers in an informative, immersive and entertaining manner across multiple platforms. Programming covers a diverse variety of historical genres ranging from military history to contemporary history, technology to natural history, as well as science, archaeology and pop culture. Among the network's program offerings are hit series such as *American Pickers*, *Ax Men*, *American Restoration*, *Ice Road Truckers*, *Top Gear*, *Pawn Stars* and *Top Shot*, as well as acclaimed specials including *Gettysburg*, *America the Story of Us*, *WWII in HD*, *102 Minutes That Changed America* and *Life After People*. HISTORY has earned four Peabody Awards, seven Primetime Emmy® Awards, 12 News & Documentary Emmy® Awards and received the prestigious Governor's Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the network's Save Our History® campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. *Take a Veteran to School Day* is the network's signature initiative connecting America's schools and communities with veterans from all wars. The HISTORY website, located at www.history.com, is the leading online resource for all things history, featuring over 20,000 videos, images, audio clips, articles and interactive features that allow visitors to dig deeper into a broad range of thousands of historical topics. For more information go to www.historypressroom.com.

About Preserve America

Preserve America is a federal partnership program begun in 2003 and led by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that encourages and highlights community efforts to preserve and enhance the priceless cultural heritage of the United States as well as associated natural resources. The program's goals include fostering greater public knowledge of, and appreciation for, the nation's past and its cultural traditions; encouraging broader support for saving the special places that help document and tell the story of America; strengthening civic pride and participation in ways that help build and sustain communities by preserving, enhancing, and using cultural

heritage; and improving local economic vitality and livability through heritage development and heritage tourism. Nearly 900 communities as well as volunteer organizations have been recognized nationwide for their heritage stewardship, tourism, and education efforts. The Preserve America program is administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in cooperation with the White House, the US Department of the Interior, and the US Department of Agriculture.