

ALL PRINCIPALS/APS/TEACHERS: Social Studies- Gilder Lehrman Institute's National History Teacher of the Year Award

Category: For Your Information

Audience: All Principals/APs, All Teachers

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

To announce Gilder Lehrman's National History Teacher of the Year award nomination process and information.

- **The National History Teacher of the Year Award, a \$10,000 annual prize, recognizes outstanding American history teachers from elementary school through high school.**
- Fifty-three winners—one from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools, and US Territories—receive a \$1,000 award and an archive of books and historical resources presented to their school library.
- From these fifty-three winners, one is recognized as the National History Teacher of the Year. The award is co-sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, HISTORY®, and Preserve America.
- Elementary school teachers (grades K–6) and middle and high school teachers (grades 7–12) are honored in separate categories in alternate years.
- **The 2012 award honored middle and high school teachers (7–12).**
- **The 2013 award will honor elementary teachers (K–6).** Teachers can be nominated for either award throughout the year.
- **Qualifying Criteria**
 - All K–12 nominees will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - At least three years of classroom teaching experience;
 - A demonstrated commitment to teaching American history (including state and local history); and
 - Evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom;
 - Effective use of documents, artifacts, historic sites, oral histories, and other primary resources to engage students with American history.
- **Eligibility**
 - Any full-time educator of grades K–12 who teaches American history (including state and local history). American history may be taught as an individual subject or through social studies, reading, language arts, and other subjects.
 - Nominees must be planning to teach for at least one year following the award year.
 - Past state and national winners are not eligible.
 - **Self-nominations are not accepted.**
- **Award Process**
 - **Nominations**
 - All teachers must be nominated on the Gilder Lehrman website, which accepts nominations for any K–12 teacher throughout the year.
 - Nominations can be made by a student, parent, colleague, principal or other administrator familiar with the teacher's work.

- A teacher must be nominated by **February 1, 2013** to be considered for the current year's award. All nominees will be notified with full instructions for submitting supporting materials to complete their nominations. To nominate a teacher, please click here.
- **Supporting Materials**
 - All nominees will be invited to submit the following supporting material to be considered for the award:
 - A current resume/curriculum vitae
 - One letter of support from a supervisor, colleague, or other education professional familiar with the nominee's work
 - A one-page statement of the nominee's philosophy of teaching and how it relates specifically to his or her instruction of American history (**one page**)
 - A sample lesson plan that can be completed in one to two class sessions, demonstrating the use of primary sources (**no more than five pages**)
 - A sample extended student project, demonstrating the use of primary documents, artifacts, historic sites, oral histories, and other primary resources (**no more than fifteen pages**)
- All supporting materials for the current year's award must be submitted by **March 15, 2013**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- **Announcement of State History Teachers of the Year (May):**
 - All completed supporting materials are reviewed by state committees of education professionals who select a state winner. All nominees will be notified by the Gilder Lehrman Institute in May. State History Teachers of the Year receive a prize package including a certificate of recognition, a \$1,000 award, a collection of classroom resources to be presented in their name to the school library, and an invitation to participate in a Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminar. Each winner's school will become a Gilder Lehrman Affiliate School. Winners are honored in a ceremony in their state.
- **Announcement of the National History Teacher of the Year (Fall):**
 - All state winners are finalists for the National History Teacher of the Year Award. A panel of judges comprised of former national winners, renowned historians, professors, and teachers reviews all state winner materials and selects the National History Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced in the early fall and will receive a \$10,000 award and a trip to the national award ceremony, along with two of his or her students.
- Please visit Gilder Lehrman's website for additional information:
<http://gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/national-history-teacher-year>.
- If you have questions, please contact Gilder Lehrman's National History Teacher of the Year coordinator at: nhtoy@gilderlehrman.org.

Contact: Robert C. Brazofsky (305 995-1599)
Department: Department of Social Sciences