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**Delaware Historical Society Pilots “Wilmington 1968” with the
Freedom School History Scholars Summer Program**

Wilmington, DE – The Delaware History Museum’s Mitchell Center for African American Heritage is pleased to announce the Freedom School History Scholars Summer Program. Over seven weeks, fourteen students in grades 9-12, will learn how to do historical research, conduct oral history interviews, and create museum interpretations for use in the Mitchell Center exhibition galleries. Their project is titled “Wilmington 1968,” which will feature first-hand accounts of Wilmington residents who were high school students in 1968, one of the most challenging years in American history.

The Mitchell Center, in conjunction with the Children’s Defense Fund, Mother African Union Church, and the Peter Spencer Family Life Foundation, collaborated to develop a summer program for students of Delaware’s first Freedom School. The Freedom School, located at the Mother African Union Church on North Franklin Street, is a literacy, academic, and social action program modeled after the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964. The school includes a reading enrichment program that also teaches students the virtues of good citizenship and volunteerism.

Ten Freedom School History Scholars will develop skills in photography, research, writing, public speaking, and exhibition design. The program is designed to inspire students’ confidence to present their ideas thoughtfully and confidently, and to consider the museum profession as a worthwhile and attainable career option. Funding for the Freedom School History Scholars Summer Program has been provided by generous private donors.

About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the National Historic Landmark Read House & Gardens located in New Castle. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit www.dehistory.org.

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