

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Delaware Historical Society announces Delaware Students Achieve at National History Day

WILMINGTON, DE (July 2014)

Delaware students earned a second-place award and honorable recognitions last week at the 2014 Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland.

The National History Day (NHD) competition is the culmination of a year-long academic program attracting hundreds of thousands of participants but fewer than 3,000 students advanced to national rounds in junior and senior divisions across five categories: exhibits, performances, papers, documentaries and websites. The competition teaches students to document, interpret, and present original research about local, regional, national, and international history. This year's theme was Rights and Responsibilities in History.

Towle Institute student, AnnaClaire Schmidel, won a silver second-place medal in the Individual Performance category of the senior division for her performance "Words on Trial: The Nazi Book Burnings, Censorship, and Propaganda". Schmidel wrote the script and choreographed the entire solo performance!

Allyson Mitchell, Delaware Historical Society, Education Curator and Delaware State Coordinator for NHD reported, "AnnaClaire is the first Delaware student to place in the 17 years the society has sponsored NHD."

When asked about her experience, Schmidel commented, "History Day is such an important educational event. It provides students like me with the opportunity to share my ideas and thoughts on the past, present, and future with leading figures in the field."

P.S. Dupont Middle School students -- Andrew Availa, Charles Davis, and Luke Gladfelter received honorable recognition for their junior division group documentary, "Paralyzed by Fear: Fighting Polio Through the Salk Vaccine". In addition, Padua Academy Seniors—Abigail Strusowski, Erin Spadaccini, and Lauren Davis received honorable recognition for their group website entry, "Responsibility on Trial: The State of Israel v. Adolf Eichmann." Wilmington Christian senior division students, Sarah Rettig and Kaylene Mummert, were part of a group of NHD contestants chosen to display exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. Their exhibit was entitled "The Responsibility of Christians During the Holocaust."

The Delaware Historical Society is able to sponsor National History Day as a result of proceeds from memberships, annual fund gifts, the History Makers Award, and support from the state of Delaware through the Grant-in-Aid program.

Fifty-two Delaware middle and high-school students represented the First State at the national competition this year.

About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society is the statewide, non-profit organization that explores, preserves, shares, and promotes Delaware history, heritage, and culture to strengthen our community.

The Delaware Historical Society, located at 505 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 owns and operates the Delaware History Museum (closed for renovations), Old Town Hall, the research library, and the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, DE 19720.

For information regarding the Delaware Historical Society and NHD, please call 302-655-7161 or visit our website at dehistory.org.

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