

April 24, 2006

RECORD CROWD AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY STATE FINALS

Over five hundred people were present as seventy Michigan students received top honors at the Michigan History Day (National History Day in Michigan) State Finals on Saturday, April 22nd in Allendale. The competition was held on the campus of Grand Valley State University.

"Michigan History Day continues to grow" commented Larry J. Wagenaar, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Michigan. "Students are so excited to share what they have learned. They are the experts and actively engaged our judges. History Day is hands-on education with students gaining phenomenal new skills."

This year more than 5,000 students competed in the History Day program in Michigan. Of these a record 223 students reached the state finals, representing schools from all across the state. Finalists chosen at the state finals in the Junior and Senior categories now head to College Park, Maryland in June to compete in National History Day with their peers from the other forty-nine states.

Winners at the National History Day Michigan State Finals included students from Ada, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Belmont, Beverly Hills, Canton, Comstock Park, Farmington, Grand Rapids, Grant, Hancock, Hastings, Kalamazoo, Novi, Plymouth, Roseville, Shelby Township, Southfield, Traverse City and Whitehall.

Students in grades 4-12 competed in Allendale representing outstanding entries from each of ten districts throughout Michigan. Entries were in seven categories - Individual Paper, Individual Exhibit, Individual Documentary, Individual Performance, Group Exhibit, Group Documentary and Group Performance. Students compete in Youth, Junior or Senior divisions.

All entries in the competition were tied in some way to the National History Day theme for 2006, Taking a Stand in History.

Michigan History Day is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan and was hosted this year by Grand Valley State University. Lead sponsors include Meijer Inc., the Cook Charitable Foundation, and Altacor, Inc. In addition support was also provided by the Holland Area Historical Society, the Michigan Chapter of the Society for the War of 1812, and the membership of the Historical Society of Michigan.

A full list of winners can be found at the Michigan History Day website located at www.hsmichigan.org or by calling the Historical Society of Michigan at (800) 692-1828.

Michigan History Day is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan, the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828. For more information contact the Society at 1305 Abbott Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 324-1828 or visit www.hsmichigan.org.

Editor's Note: A full list of winners can be found at <http://www.hsmichigan.org/pdf/06merged.pdf>.