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For Immediate Release

MICHIGAN STUDENTS HONORED AT 2015 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—Michigan students were among the thousands of participants from across the United States and several territories competing in the 2015 National History Day Contest, which took place June 14 – 18, 2015, in College Park, Md. **Eight Michigan students received special honors at this year’s competition.**

“The History Day theme for 2015—Leadership & Legacy in History—allowed our students to explore some fascinating subjects and led them to create very innovative projects,” said Andrea Lorion, State Coordinator for Michigan History Day (National History Day in Michigan). “We are extremely proud of the work presented by all our students throughout the History Day program.”



Rachel Bil, Rachel Forrest and Courtney Van Horn were selected to represent Michigan at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History with their exhibit.



Claire Benedict and Vaishnavi Krishnan placed eighth in the nation for Junior Group Website. Benedict and Krishnan also received the Junior Division Outstanding State Entry Award, designating them as best-in-state.

Michigan students competing in the National History Day competition represented several cities, including Ada, Auburn, Bay City, Detroit, Galesburg, Grand Blanc, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Midland, Muskegon, Pinckney and South Haven.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Rachel Bil, Rachel Forrest and Courtney Van Horn from Heritage Christian Academy in Kalamazoo were selected to represent Michigan at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History with their exhibit, “The Life and Legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt.” The team was sponsored by teacher John Beck.

Claire Benedict and Vaishnavi Krishnan of Forest Hills Eastern Middle School in Ada, teacher Jim Cross, **placed eighth in the nation** for Junior Group Website with their entry “Anna Howard Shaw: The Legacy of a Forgotten Suffrage Leader.” The team

also received the **Junior Division Outstanding State Entry Award**, designating them as **best-in-state**.

Hannah Lane-Davies and Hayden Lane-Davies of Aubrey Hardaway Homeschool in

Galesburg, teacher **Aubrey Hardaway**, placed **ninth in the nation** for Senior Group Documentary with their entry “**Dr. Homer Stryker: Leadership and Legacy.**” The team also received the **Senior Division Outstanding State Entry Award**, designating them as **best-in-state**.



Charles Parsons placed eleventh in the nation for Senior Individual Website.

Charles Parsons of Calvary Baptist Academy in Midland, teacher **Dan Forbes**, placed **eleventh in the nation** for Senior Individual

Website with his entry “**Joseph Stalin, Murderous Dictator.**”



Hannah Lane-Davies and Hayden Lane-Davies placed ninth in the nation for Senior Group Documentary. They also received the Senior Division Outstanding State Entry Award, designating them as best-in-state.

TEACHER AWARDS

The Patricia Behring Award recognizes two teachers from each state, one at the junior level and one at the senior level. **Don Erickson from St. Francis de Sales School in Manistique**, Mich., received the junior division award, and **Katherine Temple from Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men in Detroit** received the senior division award. The teachers selected have shown outstanding creativity, commitment and inspiration in developing student interest in history. Each teacher will receive a cash award of \$500 in honor of their contributions to history education through the National History Day program.

National History Day in Michigan—known statewide as Michigan History Day—is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan, the state’s oldest cultural organization. Major sponsors of Michigan History Day are the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Meijer and Amway. For high-resolution photos of the individual winners, please contact the Historical Society of Michigan.

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