

# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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## **31 Iowa students earn top honors at 2015 National History Day contest** *11 students finish with Gold, Silver and Bronze medals*

**DES MOINES** – Thirty-one Iowa students received top honors and recognition last week at the 2015 Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland. NHD in Iowa is overseen by the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

“Overall we had 67 students represent Iowa in competition against 3,000 other students from around the world, including the United States, Guam, American Samoa, Department of Defense Schools in Europe, and international schools in China, Korea and South Asia,” SHSI Administrator Susan Kloewer said. “Iowans can be proud of these students and we congratulate our medalists and finalists.”

National History Day is a year-long education program that engages students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Working individually or collaboratively in groups of two to five, students produce dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries, research papers and websites based on research related to an annual theme. The theme for 2015 is “Leadership and Legacy in History.” Projects are evaluated at school, district and state contests, with winners advancing through each round to the NHD National Finals.

The list of this year’s NHD medalists and finalists in the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and Senior Division (grades 9-12) from Iowa follows:

### **National History Day in Iowa National Contest Results**

***Name(s) – Place for Division Category***  
*Project Title*  
*School*  
*Teacher*

#### **Medalists**

##### **Gold Medalists**

Tate Hogrefe  
Junior Individual Exhibit: “Nelson Mandela: Leadership in the Fight Against Apartheid”  
Le Mars Middle School  
Teacher: Jeanne Rust

Cody Baker  
Senior Individual Website: “Alan Turing’s Mechanical Brain”  
Storm Lake High School  
Teacher: Priscilla Robinson

##### **Silver Medalists**

Allie Tubbs  
Junior Individual Performance: “Jacobus tenBroeck: A Leader with a Vision of Equality for the Blind and a Legacy of Constitutional Equality for All”  
Johnston Middle School  
Teacher: Kathy Paul

##### **Bronze Medalists**

Jack Anderson, Megan Swancutt, McKenna Vaneldik, Daytona Foley, Logan Smith  
Junior Group Performance: “Henry Ford’s Driving Leadership: Paving the Way for Mass Production”  
Akron-Westfield Community School  
Teacher: Val Philips

Shaleen Thiengmany, Erin Zihlman, Abby Ryon

Junior Group Exhibit: "Eunice Kennedy Shriver's Leadership and Legacy: Changing the World's View on the Mentally Disabled"

Mt. Pleasant Middle School

Teacher: Jennifer Stater

### **Other Finalists**

#### **4th Place**

Kylie Clark, Allison True, Dalton Dencklau, Bailey Miller

Junior Group Website: "Lewis Hine: The Voice for Children"

Southeast Valley Middle School

Teacher: Janet Wills

#### **5th Place**

Lauren Schroeder

Junior Individual Documentary: "Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Man Who Resisted Hitler"

Rivermont Collegiate

Teacher: Leigh Ann Schroeder

Jordyn Head

Senior Individual Exhibit: "Legacy of Radioactivity: Madame Marie Curie, First Lady of Science"

North Scott High School

Teacher: Chris Green

#### **6th Place**

Mickey Sloat

Senior Individual Performance: "Leadership on the Cyber Sea: The Legacy of Admiral Grace Hopper"

Davenport Central High School

Teacher: Gail Heninger

#### **10th Place**

Lauren Wibe, Rachael Russell, Nicole Carver, Miriam Ochs

Senior Group Documentary: "Disney: Evolution of an Empire"

Washington High School

Teacher: Amy Jones

#### **11th Place**

Kyra Troendle

Junior Individual Documentary: "Jane Goodall: The Journey from Field Biologist to Activist and Inspirational Leader"

Madrid Junior-Senior High School

Teacher: Steve Perkins

Holden DeVore, C.J. Currie, Avery Hanson

Junior Group Exhibit: "Dr. Ponseti: Changing the World One Step at a Time"

Harding Middle School

Teacher: Shannan Haas

Kathryn Ikeda

Senior Paper: "Fred Korematsu: Restoring Japanese-American Reputations"

Johnston High School

Teacher: Sue Cline

Anna Steenson

Senior Individual Documentary: "The Lumiere Brothers: A Legacy Set in Motion"

Central Academy

Teacher: Canada Snyder

#### **12th Place**

Allie Stutting and Ali Watkins

Senior Group Performance: "Social Paralysis: Common People Leading the Charge for Change: The Legacy of 1964 Freedom Summer"

North School High School

Teacher: Chris Green

### 13th Place

Alex Bare

Senior Individual Documentary: "The Last Tribe of Iowa: Leadership of the Meskwaki People in a Struggle for Survival"

North Scott High School

Teacher: Chris Green

### Special Award Winners

Elyse Clough

*Outstanding Entry on Asian-American History*

Junior Individual Website: "Harry and Bertha Holt: Pioneers in International Adoption"

Nevada Middle School

Teacher: Randy Davis

Mickey Sloat

*Outstanding Entry in American Naval History*

Senior Individual Performance: "Leadership on the Cyber Sea: the Legacy of Admiral Grace Hopper"

Davenport Central High School

Teacher: Gail Heninger

This summer, SHSI will offer teachers and students more opportunities to learn about the National History Day in Iowa program:

- The NHD in Iowa Summer Teacher Institute will be July 22-24, 2015, and will give teachers an opportunity to learn about the 2016 theme, explore categories, learn research strategies and more. Teachers will create their own History Day project that will be presented at the NHD Kick-Off in the fall. A \$300 stipend to defray travel and lodging costs will allow teachers from all over the state to participate, and teachers will be able to collaborate with their peers and share their knowledge. Visit <http://ia.nhd.org/teachers.htm> for more information.
- The Young Writers' Workshop will be July 27-31, 2015, with acclaimed author Stephanie Hill leading the week-long writing workshop for students in grades 8-12. The workshop will explore the craft of writing using inspiration from historical artifacts, documents and photographs. Each day, students will video chat with a different professional author for a Q&A session. Limited need-based scholarships are available. Apply by July 6, 2015, and contact SHSI's Millie Frese at [millie.frese@iowa.gov](mailto:millie.frese@iowa.gov) or visit [www.iowahistory.org/education](http://www.iowahistory.org/education) for more information.

The program has been coordinated by the State Historical Society of Iowa since 1994 and is sponsored by the State Historical Society, Inc., and the History Channel. The State Historical Museum is at 600 E. Locust Street in Des Moines. [More information about NHD in Iowa](#) is available at [www.iowahistory.org](http://www.iowahistory.org) or by contacting Katie Craven at 515-725-0506 or [katie.craven@iowa.gov](mailto:katie.craven@iowa.gov).

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*The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and its three divisions – the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa-State Office of Media Production and the State Historical Society of Iowa – empower Iowa to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by connecting Iowans to the people, places and points of pride that define our state. The department's work enables Iowa to be recognized as a state that fosters creativity and serves as a catalyst for innovation where the stories of Iowa are preserved and communicated to connect past, present and future generations. [www.culturalaffairs.org](http://www.culturalaffairs.org)*