



PRESS RELEASE

National History Day – California (NHD-CA)

Champions Honored at National History Day – CA State Contest

-- **ROCKLIN, CA – May 12, 2019** -- After months of intensive research and success at district & county-level competitions, champions were recognized at the 2019 National History Day – CA State Contest. Sixty-seven students will represent California at the National History Day competition in Maryland, June 9 – 13, 2019.

More than 600,000 students nationwide participate in the year-long National History Day program. In California, more than 40,000 students participate in National History Day each year. This year, 1,510 students from 296 schools representing 27 counties participated in the California state contest. More than 240 historians, educators, and other professionals interviewed students and evaluated their work at the competition. Students were also awarded special prizes donated by sponsors.

National History Day students engage in project based learning as they choose their own topics of study connected to an annual theme and then engage in public history at competitions. This year's theme is *Triumph & Tragedy in History*. National History Day students research historic documents and artifacts, conduct oral histories, search the Internet and libraries for information on their topic, and travel to historic sites. They present their work in a variety of ways including: museum-type exhibits, documentaries, websites, original performances, posters, or traditional research papers.

Three educators were named the **NHD-CA Teachers of the Year** for their dedication towards helping students grow in their interest and knowledge of history and the promotion of NHD on their campuses. The winners are:

- Senior Division Teacher of the Year: Cherie Redelings, San Diego County, Francis Parker School
- Junior Division Teacher of the Year: Mary Ong-Dean, San Diego County, Francis Parker School
- Rookies of the Year: Avril Wilson & James Chester, Marin County, San Jose Middle School

Two educators were nominated for the prestigious **NHD Hannah E. (liz) MacGregor Teacher of the Year Award**, a national award that honors teachers who engage History Day students in historical learning through innovative teaching and active learning strategies. Winners of this award will be announced at the NHD Awards Ceremony on June 13th at the University of Maryland.

- High School: Debbie Hodge, Fresno County, Alta Sierra Intermediate School
- Middle School: Melissa Lawson, Sacramento County, Folsom Middle School

A List of student medalists can be found at: <http://www.nhdca.org/>

For more Information or for student contact information for interviews or photos:

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The Sacramento County Office of Education runs National History Day – CA in partnership with county coordinators from throughout the state.