Four California Entries Earn Medals at National History Day

-- MARYLAND – June 21, 2021 -- After months of intensive research and success at district, county, and state-level competitions, four California entries and ten students earned top honors at the 2021 Virtual National History Day Contest June 13-19. In addition, four California entries were named finalists and two entries were named Outstanding In State. More than 3,000 students from 50 states and 7 international affiliates participated in the contest.

Two California educators were nominated for Teacher of the Year Awards. Jeni Boulanger from Oak Hills High School in San Bernardino County won the 2021 NHD Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award for the senior division. Jeni was selected from a pool of 54 nominees and will receive a $10,000.00 prize.

Heather Pang from Castilleja School in Santa Clara County was honored as the California nominee for the Patricia Behring National History Day Junior Division Teacher of the Year Award and will receive a $500 prize.

Each fall more than 600,000 students nationwide begin the year-long National History Day program. Students begin by creating projects in the classroom and then move on to compete in a series of history contests progressing from district to county, and then on to the state contest. Participating students choose their own topics of study and research from original sources based on a theme. This year’s theme is Communication in History: The Key to Understanding. National History Day students research historic documents and artifacts, conduct oral histories, search the archives and libraries for information on their topic, and travel to historic sites. They present their work in a variety of ways including: exhibits, documentaries, websites, original performances, or traditional research papers. In California more than 40,000 students participate in National History Day each year. Sixty-nine of the 1,160 students who competed at the NHD-CA contest in early May qualified to advance to the National History Day competition.

Historians and other education professionals evaluate the students work at the national competition. $150,000 in scholarships are awarded at the awards ceremony, and approximately 100 students took home cash prizes between $250 and $5,000 for superior work in a particular category of judging.

Winners and finalists are listed on following pages.

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National History Day - California is run by the Sacramento County Office of Education in partnership with county coordinators from throughout the state.
2021 NHD Winners & Finalists

National Winners

Junior Group Website

1st Place
Hangul: Communication for the Common People
Students: Anna Cho & Erin Hwang
Teacher: Lianne Linck
Sierra Vista Middle School – Orange County

Senior Group Performance

3rd Place
Operating on the Front Lines: The Hello Girls of World War I
Students: Elsa Baumgartner & Adelyn Phillips
Teacher: Cherie Redelings
Francis Parker School – San Diego County

Senior Group Documentary

3rd Place
The Cost of Words: How the Introduction of the Telegraph to America in the Late 19th Century Changed the Cultural Norms of Everyday Communication
Students: Kiera Clarke & Nicole Rudenky
Teacher: Aditi Doshi
High Tech Los Angeles – Los Angeles County

Senior Group Exhibit

3rd Place
The Truth of the 19th Amendment: Its Effect and What it Communicated to Women
Students: Natalie Dell’Immagine, Sydney Chung, Faustine Pierres, & Ingrid Standifer
Teacher: Anne Olson
Menlo-Atherton High School – San Mateo County

NHD Patricia Behring Senior Division Teacher of the Year
Jeni Boulanger
Oak Hills High School – San Bernardino County

National Finalists

Junior Group Exhibit (6th)
The Unbreakable Pen and Unstoppable Voice of Malala Yousafzai
Students: Esean Dhaliwal, Samay Dhaliwal
Teacher: Ellery Moore
Rio Vista Middle School – Fresno County
Senior Individual Website (10th)

The Letters Between Harriet Glickman and Charles Schulz: A Key to Integration in the Media
Student: Nathan Lee
Teacher: Jalyn Barnard
Martin Luther King High School – Riverside County

Junior Group Website (5th)

Ida Tarbell: Exposing the Injustices of the Standard Oil Company
Student: Audrey Manley & Kylie Rose
Teacher: Robbie See
William Mendenhall Middle School – Alameda County

Junior Individual Documentary (7th)

Seeing through His Lens: Lewis Hine, Exposing Child Exploitation
Student: Hannah Cho
Teacher: Lianne Linck
Sierra Vista Middle School – Orange County

Additional Recognition

Junior Group Website (Jr. Division Outstanding in State)

Ida Tarbell: Exposing the Injustices of the Standard Oil Company
Student: Audrey Manley & Kylie Rose
Teacher: Robbie See
William Mendenhall Middle School – Alameda County

Senior Group Documentary (Sr. Division Outstanding in State)

All in the Family: Communicating Controversial Comedy
Students: Shawn Ashley & Shayna Ashley
Teachers: Aurelio Cortez & Ana Pantoja
Canyon Springs High School – Riverside County