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## KSHS NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### KANSAS STUDENTS HEADED TO NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

June 10 – 14, University of Maryland

TOPEKA—Fifty-one Kansas students were selected to advance to National History Day, June 10 – 14, at the University of Maryland, College Park, near Washington, D.C. With the theme of *Triumph & Tragedy*, 219 Kansas History Day students competed today at the Washburn University in Topeka. This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kansas History Day in Kansas.

The top two entries in each category receive an invitation to compete at National History Day. The top entry in each category also receives a scholarship, sponsored by Kansas historical organizations, awarded to categories on a rotating basis. In the event that either the gold or silver medallist in a category at Kansas History Day is unable to enter the national contest, the third place entry is invited to compete.

Throughout the school year more than 1,200 students statewide worked, researched, and tracked primary sources. Kansas students grades six through twelve compete in junior and senior categories, divided by individuals and groups in performances, documentaries, papers, and exhibits. Students competed as individuals and in groups according to grade level in the categories of performance, papers, exhibits, and documentaries. They are challenged to demonstrate their knowledge about the historical context of their topic and relate the topic to the theme.

**Ray Van Sickle** received the 2007 Teacher of the Year Award. Van Sickle is a teacher at Santa Fe Middle School, Newton. Nominations said that Van Sickle helps students, “has met with regularly with students after school to encourage and support them as they work on their projects,” “on days he was too sick to be at school, he was with his History Day students after school,” and “When I think of Ray Van Sickle, there are four words that come to my mind—dedicated, sincere, diligent, and knowledgeable.” Three other teachers were nominated for the award: Norman Conard, Uniontown High School, Uniontown; Donna Sanders, Washburn Rural Middle School, Topeka; and Chris Terrill, Reno County Education cooperative, Haven.

Special topical awards also were announced:

#### **Bleeding Kansas Heritage Area Award**

**Hannah Frydman**, “‘Hopeful for Liberty’: Clarina Nichols’ Crusade for Women’s Rights in Kansas,”  
Lawrence Free State High School, Lawrence, Senior Individual Documentary

#### **Greater Kansas City Area Scholarship Award**

**Kayla DuBois**, “Dear Mr. Davis: A Family’s Search for the Truth,” Washburn Rural Middle School,  
Topeka, Junior Individual Documentary

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Kansas History Day is administered by the Kansas Historical Society with additional support from the Washburn University. For further information contact Kansas History Day co-coordinators Daniel Carey, 785-272-8681, ext. 436, [dcarey@kshs.org](mailto:dcarey@kshs.org); or Letha Johnson, 785-272-8681, ext. 306, [ljohnson@kshs.org](mailto:ljohnson@kshs.org). The Historical Society is headquartered at 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099; 785-272-8681; TTY 785-272-8683; [www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org)

The Kansas State Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

State winners attached