

## ATLANTA EDUCATOR NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY® TEACHER OF THE YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. and ATLANTA, GEORGIA—Mrs. Laura Szymanski, a teacher at Midtown International School in Atlanta, Georgia, was nominated for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award. The award is sponsored by Patricia Behring, widow of the late Kenneth E. Behring, who previously sponsored the National History Day National Contest for many years.

Each of the 58 National History Day affiliates may nominate one middle school teacher for this award, and Mrs. Szymanski is the junior division nominee from Georgia. Every nominee for the \$10,000 award is a teacher who demonstrates a commitment to engaging students in historical learning through innovative use of primary sources, implementation of active learning strategies to foster historical thinking skills, and participation in the National History Day Contest. All nominees will receive \$500, each, as a result of their nominations.

“Teachers are among the greatest resources children have to develop the skills necessary to become critical thinkers,” said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. “The nominees for the Behring Award have shown a dedication to teaching that goes beyond the classroom. I congratulate Mrs. Szymanski on her well-deserved nomination.”

Patricia Behring sponsors this award in recognition of the pivotal role teachers play in the lives of students. The national winner will be selected by a committee of experienced teachers and historians, and will be announced on June 18, 2020, at the National History Day National Contest Awards Ceremony held at the University of Maryland, College Park. Nominees’ work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that interest students in history, and help them make exciting discoveries about the past.

### **About National History Day® (NHD):**

NHD is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, which seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD is sponsored in part by, HISTORY®, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, the Crown Family Foundation, The Better Angels Society, and the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation. For more information, visit [nhd.org](http://nhd.org).

### **About National History Day in Georgia:**

National History Day in Georgia is a program of Georgia Humanities and LaGrange College, in partnership with Mercer University that annually engages over 11,000

middle and high school students from across the state in historical research, interpretation, and creative expression through project based learning. For more information, please visit [www.lagrange.edu/nhd](http://www.lagrange.edu/nhd).

**About Georgia Humanities:**

Georgia Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization working to ensure that humanities and culture remain an integral part of the lives of all Georgians. Serving the citizens of Georgia through cultural and educational programs, grants, and projects, Georgia Humanities encourages engagement with the history, stories, and ideas that inform our lives, so that we can make better decisions for the future. Founded in 1971, Georgia Humanities is the statewide affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and one of the first of 56 humanities councils founded in the nation. For more information, please visit [www.georgiahumanities.org](http://www.georgiahumanities.org).

**About LaGrange College:**

Georgia's oldest private institution of higher learning, LaGrange College is consistently ranked among the South's top colleges by U.S. News & World Report. A four-year liberal arts and sciences college affiliated with the United Methodist Church, LaGrange offers more than 70 areas of study with an emphasis on global engagement and service. For more information, please visit [www.lagrange.edu](http://www.lagrange.edu).

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