

MACON TEACHER SELECTED FOR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY SUMMER WEBINAR SERIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Mr. Jonathan Merrill, a teacher at Howard Middle School/Howard High School in Macon, Georgia, is one of only 98 teachers selected for a National History Day® (NHD) summer professional development program. This new course focuses on using online Library of Congress resources to develop and support historical arguments and is a feature of NHD's membership in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Consortium. Over the course of the series, Mr. Merrill has explored digitized primary sources from the Library of Congress, engaged in four live webinar programs and discussions with fellow educators from across the country, and developed resources to use with students in his classroom.

The National History Day program in Georgia selected Mr. Merrill. NHD affiliates include all 50 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and international school programs in China, South Asia, and South Korea.

"As a TPS Consortium member, we are thrilled to utilize the vast array of digitized primary sources made available online by the Library of Congress," said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "At the conclusion of this course, Mr. Merrill will be able to share with his students key strategies for researching, supporting, and presenting historical arguments backed up by these primary sources. This is a crucial skill in teaching and learning good history, and is especially valuable now when so many students and teachers across the country are engaged in remote learning due to the coronavirus pandemic."

As one of the selected teachers, Mr. Merrill receives free tuition, graduate credits, and materials for the online program.

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 Better Angels Society, Jacqueline B. Mars, and BBVA. For more information, visit 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.

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.

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.

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