



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Outstanding Historians Honored

Bloomington, IN—The participants in the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Program have been selected by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) to receive the 2013 Friend of History Award, which is given annually in recognition of an institution or organization, or an individual working primarily outside college or university settings, for outstanding support for historical research, the public presentation of American history, or the work of the OAH. On Saturday, April 13, OAH President Albert M. Camarillo and OAH President-Elect Alan M. Kraut will announce the award in San Francisco, California, during the 106<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the organization.

The Organization of American Historians is proud to honor the almost 85,000 participants in the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Program with the 2013 OAH Friend of History Award. The Teaching American History Program offered the most extensive program ever developed to reimagine and renew the teaching of American history in classrooms across the United States and its territories. Beginning with its first grants in 2001, authorized in legislation initiated by Senator Robert Byrd, recipient of the 2007 OAH Friend of History Award, the program engaged a staggering 80,000 elementary and secondary classroom teachers from more than 3,700 school districts in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. These teachers joined more than 2,600 college and university instructors from more than 400 history departments, plus educators, political scientists, economists, and law faculty to find new ways to bring American history alive in the nation's classrooms.

For more than a decade, secondary and elementary teachers, college and university faculty, grant directors, and federal administrators found commonality in their love of American history and dedication to advancing its understanding and teaching. They employed the exceptional breadth of approach and background that epitomizes the open practice of American history across so many regions, districts, departments, and institutions and created more than 1,300 different yearlong and summer seminar programs serving local school districts and teachers. The collective and individual efforts of these enthusiastically committed teachers and faculty continues to recast the shape of the American history classroom experience for millions of students, aiming to carry, well into adulthood, an ongoing appreciation for the endlessly fascinating—and always complicated—past that shapes our nation.

The Organization of American Historians confers its 2013 Friend of History Award on the nearly 85,000 participants whose eager commitment gave life to the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Program and its goal of forwarding a deeper, learned understanding of the American past as a dynamic foundation for meeting the challenges of the future.

Founded in 1907, the OAH is the largest learned society and professional organization dedicated to the teaching and study of the American past. The OAH promotes excellence in the scholarship, teaching, and presentation of American history, and encourages wide discussion of historical questions and equitable treatment of all practitioners of history. Members in the United States and abroad include college and university professors; students; precollegiate teachers; archivists, museum curators, and other public historians employed in government and the private sector.