

TEXAS TEACHER CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS SUMMER INSTITUTE IN RHODE ISLAND

National History Day and The Rhode Island Historical Society team up to work with teachers about the Revolutionary Era

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Dr. Joseph Russell, American Studies teacher at **Plano East High School**, has been selected to represent Texas History Day (THD), an affiliate of National History Day (NHD), at a unique summer institute called Revolutionary Ideals, where 30 teachers from across the country will study the American Revolution and Founding Era in Providence, Rhode Island, during summer 2022. NHD is working with the Rhode Island Historical Society, which will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2022, on programming, events, and site visits.

Dr. Russell has sponsored numerous Plano East students in Texas History Day and guided them through the Dallas Area Regional contest where several students have advanced to the state competition and then the national contest. He also was named an NHD Master Teacher in February 2022 where he helped to develop a set of student guides that will connect NHD categories with resources in the Library of Congress.

Over the course of six months, the selected teachers will learn about and research the context of the ideals behind the American Revolution and Early Republic. After the institute, teachers will work in pairs to create lesson plans relating to the founding ideals of the revolutionary era.

Teachers will travel to Rhode Island and engage in site-specific learning coordinated by the Rhode Island Historical Society from July 10 to July 17, 2022. The program culminates with teachers submitting lesson plans for an upcoming NHD publication.

“As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, we know that teachers and their students, as well as our many cultural institution partners are reflecting upon the ideals of the founders of America,” shares **Executive Director Cathy Gorn**. “These were great thinkers, yet it was a political, legal, and philosophical system that overlooked and excluded many. We are looking to recover the histories of all who contributed to this requisite period in American history.”

Revolutionary Ideals is one aspect of National History Day’s programming under the larger initiative A More Perfect Union. To that end, NHD is partnering with various partners to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the United States.

Revolutionary Ideals is generously funded by Tom Lauer.

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The press release is attached. Please send all media queries to Lisa Berg, TSHA Director of Education, at lisa.berg@tshaonline.org.

National History Day®(NHD) is a non-profit education organization based in College Park, Maryland. NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Since 1974, NHD has continuously improved history education by providing professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators. The largest NHD program is the National History Day Contest that encourages more than half a million students around the world to conduct historical research on a topic of their choice. Students enter these projects at the local and affiliate levels, with top students advancing to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. Website: nhd.org.

About Texas History Day:

Texas History Day (THD), sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association, is an affiliate of National History Day. THD is a yearlong education program that culminates in an annual state-level history fair for students in grades six through twelve. It provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their interest in, and knowledge of, history through creative and original papers, performances, documentaries, individual interpretive web sites, or three-dimensional exhibits.

Over the course of the school year, students research and produce a History Day entry, the results of which are presented at one of the 24 regional competitions in early spring. From there, some students advance to the state competition in April in Austin, or even to the national contest held each June at the University of Maryland at College Park. At each level of competition, outstanding achievement may be recognized through certificates, medals, trophies, or monetary awards. The most important rewards are the skills and insight that students acquire as they move through the History Day program.

As many as 50,000 young Texans are involved in the program at the regional and state level each year. More than 1,000 students participate in THD, and approximately 80 students represent Texas at National History Day each year. For more information, contact Lisa Berg, Director of Education Services at the Texas State Historical Association, lisa.berg@tshaonline.org or visit texashistoryday.com.

The Rhode Island Historical Society, the state's oldest and only state-wide historical organization, is dedicated to honoring, interpreting, and sharing Rhode Island's past to enrich the present and inspire the future. Founded in 1822, the RIHS is an advocate for history as a means to develop empathy and 21st-century skills, using its historical materials and knowledge to explore topics of timeless relevance and public interest. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, it is



Media Contact
Lisa Berg
Director of Education Services
lisa.berg@tshaonline.org
615-293-1969

dedicated to providing high-quality, accessible public programming and educational opportunities for all Rhode Islanders through its four sites: the John Brown House Museum, the Museum of Work & Culture, the Mary Elizabeth Robinson Research Center, and the Aldrich House.

The headquarters of the Rhode Island Historical Society are located at 110 Benevolent Street, Providence, RI 02906. Information: (401) 331-8575. Website: rihs.org. Follow the RIHS on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.