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For Immediate Release

### **Michigan Students Honored at 2020 National History Day**

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—Michigan students were among the thousands of participants from across the United States and several territories competing in the virtual 2020 National History Day contest, which took place June 14-20, 2020. **Seven Michigan students received special honors at this year’s competition—including a second-place finish and two special prizes.**

“The History Day theme for 2020—Breaking Barriers in History—became a reality this year. Students faced numerous challenges, from schools being closed before they could access their projects to not being able to work in-person with group members and sponsors,” said Amy Bradfield, state coordinator for Michigan History Day® (National History Day in Michigan). “I am proud of our students for overcoming the obstacles caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and persevering in their mission to share history.”

Michigan students competing in the National History Day competition represented several cities, including Ada, Bay City, Bloomfield Hills, Bruce Township, Canton, Clinton Township, Farmington Hills, Fennville, Fraser, Gobles, Grand Rapids, Harrison Township, Holland, Kalamazoo, Montague, Muskegon, Portage, Roseville, South Haven, St. Joseph, Traverse City, Troy, Twin Lake, Warren, West Bloomfield and Whitehall.

#### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**Allison Tate of Whitehall High School in Whitehall,**



Allison Tate, second-place winner of the Senior Individual Exhibit category.



Zackary Howey, winner of the United States Marine Corps History Prize.

sponsor Jan Klco, **placed second in the nation for the Senior Division Individual Exhibit category** with her entry, “Brownie Seals the Deal: Tupperware Parties Break Economic Barriers for Women.”

**Zackary Howey of Richards Middle School in Fraser,** sponsor Tara Fugate, **received the United States Marine Corps History Prize** for his Junior Division Individual Documentary, “Black Angels: Breaking Down Barriers and Fighting for the Right to be Marines.” The award is sponsored by the Marine Corps Heritage

Foundation.

**Alison Chen of Whitehall High School in Whitehall,** sponsor Jan Klco, **received the Senior Division of the Asian American History Prize** with the individual performance, “Cracking the Bamboo Ceiling: Anna May Wong Increases Representation of Asian-Americans in Media.” The award is sponsored by the National Park Service. **Chen placed fifth in the nation for the Senior Division Individual Performance**



Amelia Chen (left), winner of the Junior Affiliate best-in-state category, and Alison Chen (right), winner of the Senior Division of the Asian American History Prize.

**category.**

**Amelia Chen of Whitehall Middle School in Whitehall,**

sponsor Jan Klco, **received the Junior Division Outstanding Affiliate Award, designating her as best-in-state,** for her individual website entry, “Making Space: The Mercury 13 Launch a New Future for Women.” **Chen placed fourth in the nation for the Junior Division Individual Website category.**



Myles Daugherty (left) and Nic Sheppard (right), winners of the Senior Affiliate best-in-state category.

**Myles Daugherty and Nic Sheppard of South Haven High School in South Haven,** sponsor Julie Sheppard, **received the Senior Division Outstanding Affiliate Award,**

**designating them as best-in-state,** for their group exhibit entry, “From Bicycles and Birdwatching to Changing the World—The Wright Brothers: Breaking the Barrier of Flight.” **Daugherty and Sheppard placed seventh in the nation for the Senior Division Individual Exhibit category.**

**Laura Thielman from Whitehall Middle School in Whitehall participated in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture virtual showcase** with her documentary, “Breaking into the Billboard Hot 100: How Motown Got Everybody ‘Dancing in the Street.’” Only 35 of the 212 documentaries submitted were selected for inclusion in a special collection of the Smithsonian Learning Lab made available for public online viewing. Thielman was sponsored by Jan Klco and **placed seventh in the nation for the Junior Division Individual Documentary category.**



Laura Thielman, participant in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture virtual showcase.

Michigan History Day is an affiliate of National History Day, which was established in 1974 and offers yearlong project-based learning that engages more than half a million middle and high school students around the world annually. History Day provides a fascinating opportunity to move beyond routine learning. **Based on an annual theme, students choose to explore and research a local, national or international historical topic.** Students then present their work in one of five categories: performances, exhibits, papers, websites and documentaries.

**Lead sponsors of Michigan History Day 2020 are The Meijer Foundation, Frederick S. Upton Foundation, Bob Scripps Community Fund of the Scripps Howard Foundation, Sally Adler, Wilber and Ruth Wright Charitable Foundation and the Holland Area Historical Society.**

The Historical Society of Michigan is the state’s oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft. A nongovernmental nonprofit, the Society focuses on publications, conferences, education, awards and recognition programming, and support for local history organizations to preserve and promote Michigan’s rich history.

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Editor’s Note:

For a high-resolution photo of Allison Tate, please use this link: <https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Allison-Tate.jpg>. Caption: Allison Tate, second-place winner of the Senior Individual Exhibit category.

For a high-resolution photo of Amelia and Alison Chen, please use this link: <https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/AmeliaAlison-Chen.jpeg>. Caption: Amelia Chen (left), winner of the Junior Affiliate best-in-state category, and Alison Chen (right), winner of the Senior Division of the Asian American History Prize.

For a high-resolution photo of Myles Daugherty and Nic Sheppard, please use this link:

[https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Sheppard\\_-Daugherty2.jpg](https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Sheppard_-Daugherty2.jpg). Caption: Myles Daugherty (left) and Nic Sheppard (right), winners of the Senior Affiliate best-in-state category.

For a high-resolution photo of Myles Daugherty, please use this link: [https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Daugherty\\_solo.jpg](https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Daugherty_solo.jpg). Caption: Myles Daugherty, one of the winners of the Senior Affiliate best-in-state category.

For a high-resolution photo of Nic Sheppard, please use this link: [https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Sheppard\\_solo.jpg](https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Sheppard_solo.jpg). Caption: Nic Sheppard, one of the winners of the Senior Affiliate best-in-state category.

For a high-resolution photo of Laura Thielman, please use this link: <https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Laura-Thielman.jpeg>. Caption: Laura Thielman, participant in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture virtual showcase.

For a high-resolution photo of Zackary Howey, please use this link: <https://hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Zackary-Howey.jpg>. Caption: Zackary Howey, winner of the United States Marine Corps History Prize.

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