

VIRGINIA TEACHER IS FINALIST FOR HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

COLLEGE PARK, Md. – June 4, 2007 – National History Day (NHD) announced today that Madeline Michel of Monticello High School in Charlottesville, Va. is one of eight finalists for the *Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award* for outstanding success in teaching history.

The award is given annually to a teacher who develops and uses creative methods to make history interesting for students.

As drama and English teacher, Michel is engaging students in the study of the past through creative NHD short plays. Through the process students become excited to conduct in-depth historical research and Michel has help students to meet with national figures like Sen. Jim Webb and the Archivist of the United States during the course of their research. This increased interest in history has lead to improved test scores for students at Monticello High School. Michel is also helping other teacher in Virginia improve their history curriculum and explaining how the NHD program correlates directly with the skills required for the Virginia Standards of Learning test.

“Through her involvement with the NHD program, Ms. Michel has greatly enriched the history curriculum of Monticello High School,” said John Haun, principal of Monticello High School.

“Because Madeline understands curriculum design well, she can help our teachers assess their methodologies and adjust in creative ways which yield thorough student learning,” said LeAnne Brubaker, a fellow teacher. “I believe that in this era of standardized testing, her creative, integrative methods actually improve student scores.”

Michel will be recognized at the NHD Welcome Ceremony on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. on the McKeldin Mall at the University of Maryland. Michel will receive a commemorative certificate and a collection of outstanding programs from PBS VIDEO featuring award-winning titles.

The winning teacher will be announced on June 14 at the NHD awards ceremony which can be viewed via live Web cast at www.nhd.org. The winner of the *Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award* will receive an additional \$1,000 prize.

PBS VIDEO, America’s leading source of exceptional educational content, is proud to work with NHD to recognize teachers for their efforts to improve history education. PBS VIDEO offers educational programming, wide-ranging companion classroom materials and online services for K-12 schools, colleges and universities, libraries and other institutions. For more information log on to shopPBS.com/teachers or pbs.org/teachersource.

National History Day, Inc. is not just one day, but a yearlong education organization that makes history come alive through educator professional development and active student learning. Through publications and education programs, National History Day trains teachers to move students beyond textbooks and expand their classrooms to include libraries, museums and archives. Nationwide 40,000 currently use National History Day curriculum materials to engage over half a million students in the study of history. For additional information on NHD visit www.nhd.org.