



Curriculum Leader Update

Arkansas Department of Education | Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
From the Office of Learning Services
Dr. Kiffany Pride, Assistant Commissioner

Date: April 9, 2026 **Subject:** 2027 Gilder Lehrman National History Teacher of the Year

Primary Contact: ronda.smith@ade.arkansas.gov

Message Description: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History conducts the National History Teacher of the Year Award as part of its dedication to K-12 education.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Office of Learning Services, is sending this message to keep curriculum leaders informed with timely updates and significant announcements. Should you have any questions or require additional information about the contents of this message, please feel free to contact us at Curriculum.Leaders@ade.arkansas.gov.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History conducts the National History Teacher of the Year Award as part of its dedication to K-12 education. Since 2004, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America have sponsored this award, which honors over 900 outstanding American history teachers at the state and national levels.

The award recognizes exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers. Eligible teachers in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools, and US territories are encouraged to apply. The National History Teacher of the Year is selected from state winners.

Any full-time educator in grades K-12 who teaches American history (including state and local history) is eligible for consideration. Teacher nominations can be made by a student, parent, colleague, principal, or other administrator familiar with the teacher's work.

Nominees must be submitted by April 30, 2026, to be considered for the current year's award. Please use this link to submit nominations and access the eligibility criteria: [National History Teacher of the Year Nomination Form](#)

Significant dates related to the nomination process:

- Nominations Due: April 30, 2026
- Supporting Materials Due: May 31, 2026

Link to the nomination page:

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-and-events/national-history-teacher-year>

National History Teacher of the Year: [NHTOY 2026 Flyer](#)

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A record of Curriculum Leader Messages is available here: [Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Offices - Learning Services - Curriculum Support - Curriculum Leader Announcements](#). To be added to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Curriculum Leaders Listserv, please email your name, e-mail address, and district name to Curriculum.Leaders@ade.arkansas.gov.