

2020 Virginia History Day State Contest Award Winners

Elementary Individual Exhibit

- Third Place: “Breaking Enigma” by Shivank Murthy, Shady Grove Elementary
- Second Place: “Pocahontas: the Native American Version of her Story” by Xiana Ide, Brownsville Elementary
- First Place: “Martin Luther King, Jr.” by Ethan Juran, Dranesville Elementary

Junior Group Website

- Third Place: “The Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” by Emily Kim and Leah Kim, Wakefield School
- Second Place: “Cracking the Code and the Glass Ceiling: Rosalind Franklin’s Piece of the Puzzle of Life” by Valerie Noto and Kendal Brown, Shelburne Middle
- First Place: “Foundations of Modern Technology: Grace Hopper’s Computer Compiler” by Thomas Traber, Amy Genz, and Rayanna Yowell, William Monroe Middle

Junior Individual Website

- Third Place: “Mercury 13: Reaching for the Stars” by Minh Nguyen, Blacksburg Middle
- Second Place: “Henry Ford - The American Industrial Revolutionizer” by Noah Isirimah, Lorton Station Elementary
- First Place: “Igniting a Fight for Freedom: The Defiance Campaign and Resistance to Apartheid” by Ally Lichtman, George H. Moody Middle

Junior Group Performance

- Third Place: “The Legacy of Joan of Arc” by Alison Woolstenhulme, Eva Simpson, Lily Wershbaile, and Lexie Saul, Pocahontas Middle
- Second Place: “The NASA Heros that were not Recognized” by Lily Worsley, Reese Omwenga, and Victoria Wigfall, Swift Creek Middle
- First Place: “A Woman’s Page in a Book of Men: how Mercy Otis Warren Broke Barriers in the Revolution” by Luke Walls, Frances Smith, Kendal Smith, Eleanor Rossi, and Deirdre Kleeman, James Blair Middle

Junior Individual Performance

- Third Place: “Hedy Lamarr: the Mind Behind the Face” by Isabella Strickland, William Monroe Middle
- Second Place: “The Independence of Israel” by Ela Patel Euler, Haycock Elementary

- First Place: “Coco Chanel: Breaking Barriers in Fashion and Gender Inequality” by Aashna Kapur, Haycock Elementary

Junior Group Exhibit

- Third Place: “Stonewall Riots” by Kira Larkin and Ruby Warnick, Blacksburg Middle
- Second Place: “‘Freedom doesn’t have a Color’ - Elizabeth Johnson Rice” by Emma McDaniel, Abigail Taylor, and Kalliyam Eam, Swift Creek Middle
- First Place: “Breaking the Laws for Love” by Eliza Hayes, Isobel Rice, and Grace Doss, Forest Middle

Junior Individual Exhibit

- Third Place: “Norfolk 17 Students Break Segregation Barrier in Education” by Sean Trudell, St. Patrick Catholic School
- Second Place: “Invisible Killers” by Sophie Pezzulich, George Washington Middle
- First Place: “World War II’s Miracle Drug: The Mass Production of Penicillin” by Nicola Beaumont, Woodlawn Secondary Program

Junior Group Documentary

- Third Place: “Christiansburg Institute: Breaking Educational Barriers” by Sam Nolen, Gideon Colliver and Thomas Pettinger, Blacksburg New School
- Second Place: “The Stonewall Riots: The Night They Fought Back” by Carolyn Brown Eva Weil, Haycock Elementary
- First Place: “Woman’s Air Force Service Pilots and their Flight to Equality” by Samantha Braden and Carley Wagner, William Monroe Middle

Junior Individual Documentary

- Third Place: “Muhammad Ali: And His Fight For Social Change” by Ahmad KutKut, Blacksburg Middle
- Second Place: “Penicillin: Breaking Bacterial Barriers” by Caroline Bruton, William Monroe Middle
- First Place: “From Atlantic to Pacific -Building the Panama Canal” by Akhil Marri, William Monroe Middle

Junior Paper

- Third Place: “Nineteenth Century London Cholera Epidemics: A Remarkable Feat in Epidemiology and Engineering” by Liah Chung, George H. Moody Middle
- Second Place: “The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In: Breaking a Barrier to Read at a Public Library” by Patrick Ostermann-Healey, George Washington Middle

- First Place: “It’s My Constitutional Right! Claudette Colvin’s Unorthodox Plight” by Cameron Sadr, St. Patrick Catholic School

Senior Group Website

- Third Place: “Vaccinating the World: The Effect of Edward Jenner's Smallpox Vaccine” by Isabel Mathew, Lauren Sung, and Amelia Kim, Langley High
- Second Place: “LGBTQ+” by Anthony Riedl, Dakota Jenkins, and Grace Freeman, Staunton High
- First Place: “Conquering Pain with Anesthesia” by Elena Torres and Victoria Davis, Fredericksburg Academy

Senior Individual Website

- Third Place: “Point, Set, Match: Billie Jean King’s Fight For Equal Pay and Gender Equality in Professional Tennis” by Katie Swatek, West Springfield High
- Second Place: “Something in the Water: Breaking Barriers through Cholera Research” by Hannah Beaver, Western Albemarle High
- First Place: “The ENIAC Six: How Six Women Programmers Shattered Technological Barriers and the Glass Ceiling” by Parker Hoang, Langley High

Senior Group Exhibit

- Third Place: “Polio: the Outbreak and Eradication” by Zaida Gyamfi and Elijah Smith, West Springfield High
- Second Place: “Historic Catastrophe Orchestrated by the Nazis” by Elizabeth Boyett, Elizabeth Molina, and Abby Willever, Charles J. Colgan Sr. High
- First Place: “Full Steam Ahead” by Olivia Boisseau, Selena Santiago, and Jamie Tuck, James River High

Senior Individual Exhibit

- Third Place: “Connecting a Country: The Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad” by Tammy Cash, Heritage High
- Second Place: “Humanitarian Visionary: Dorothea Dix” by Emma Bell, Cosby High
- First Place: “Margaret Hamilton: Breaking both Social and Technological Barriers at NASA” by Mary Pflaum, West Springfield High

Senior Group Performance

- Third Place: “Defending Love” by Mary Doherty and Claire Barber, Fredericksburg Academy

- Second Place: “The Soweto Uprising: Breaking the Barrier of Apartheid” by Aidan Gibson, Sagar Murthy, and Gio Mazzeo, Douglas S. Freeman High
- First Place: “Breaking The Gender Barrier at the Virginia Military Institute” by William Tabor, Willow Lehrer, Shayleigh Cire, and Scarlett Pleasant, Liberty High

Senior Individual Performance

- Third Place: “What Can I Achieve?: Crossing Centuries of Constraints and Exploring Chinese Immigration Through the Lens of 3 Women” by Cindy Li, Woodson High
- Second Place: “Anne Sullivan: Breaking the Barrier of Communication” by Sara Johnson, Liberty High
- First Place: “By their Poverty, Denied the Right to Vote: Harper v. Virginia Board and the Poll Tax” by Thomas McKenna, McKenna Homeschool

Senior Group Documentary

- Third Place: “I Dissent: the Impact of Ruther Bader Ginsburg” by Rithika Bhagavatula and Jordyn Krajewski, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School
- Second Place: “Stonewall 1969: The End of Silence” by Meg Hogan and Trinity Green, West Springfield High
- First Place: “Texas Western Basketball: Opening Eyes On and Off the Court” by Joshua Christmas, Anna Smith, Isabelle Larimore, and Caleb Drape, Fredericksburg Academy

Senior Individual Documentary

- Third Place: “Breaking Barriers: a Radiant Scientist” by Katie Hunsinger, Westfield High
- Second Place: “Şule Yüksel Şenler: A Writer’s Fight for Religious Freedom” by Sumaya Zahid, West Springfield High
- First Place: “Ruth Bader Ginsburg Breaking Barriers” by Helene O’Brien, Westfield High

Senior Paper

- Third Place: “The Free Speech Movement: How a Student-Led Protest Broke Barriers and Gave a Voice to the Youth of America” by Hazel Vineet, Westfield High
- Second Place: “Loving vs. VA: Breaking Virginia’s Interracial Marriage Barrier” by Isabella Jennings, Midlothian History Day Club
- First Place: “The reality-altering and barrier-breaking career of Edward Bernays” by Kieran Wall, Douglas S. Freeman High