

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Principals, and History Department Chairs
From: Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Date: December 1, 2009
Subject: 2010 *Preserve America* History Teacher of the Year Award Program

I am pleased to announce that nominations are open for the 7th annual national *Preserve America* History Teacher of the Year program to honor outstanding teachers of American history across the country. The Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year will automatically be the state's candidate for the National *Preserve America* History Teacher of the Year award.

The award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and *Preserve America*. The Gilder Lehrman Institute, founded in 1994, promotes the study and love of American history. Increasingly national and international in scope, the Institute's programs and initiatives serve audiences ranging from students to scholars to the general public. *Preserve America* is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve America's cultural and natural heritage.

History teachers of grades 7-12 are eligible for nomination and will be selected based on the following criteria:

- At least three years of experience in teaching American history in grades 7-12;
- A deep career commitment to teaching American history, including local and state history;
- Evidence of creativity in the classroom that addresses historical literacy and state standards;
- Close attention to documents, artifacts, historical sites, and the other primary materials of history;
- Sensitive and accurate portrayals of America's history to students; and
- Evidence of thoughtful assessment of student achievement.

American history teachers of grades K-6 will be eligible for the 2011 History Teacher of the Year program.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History will honor each statewide winner with an award of \$1,000 and a "History Teacher of the Year" plaque. The Institute will also present the winner's school with an archive of primary historical materials for use in the school library or resource center.

The National History Teacher of the Year will be selected from the state winners by a panel of prominent historians. The winner will be flown to Washington, D.C. or New York City for the national recognition ceremony.

I encourage you to read and disseminate the enclosed nomination flyer and to nominate outstanding American history teachers in your district/school. **Nominations must be postmarked by Friday, April 9, 2010.** For further information, contact Deborah Walker at djwalker@doe.mass.edu or phone 781-338-3347.

Do you know a Great American History Teacher?

Nominate a great **AMERICAN HISTORY** teacher of grades 7-12 for the 2010 Preserve America History Teacher of the Year award.

The Commissioner of Education is inviting your nominations of American history teachers of grades 7-12 who deserve to be recognized in the Massachusetts *Preserve America* History Teacher of the Year program.

The teacher will receive \$1,000 and a "History Teacher of the Year" plaque from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The Institute also presents the winner's school with an archive of primary historical materials, named in honor of the teacher, for use in the school library or resource center. The Massachusetts winner automatically becomes the Commonwealth's candidate for the National *Preserve America* History Teacher of the Year.

American history teachers of grades K-6 will be eligible for the 2011 History Teacher of the Year program.

Anyone (colleagues, principals, superintendents, parents, students, former students, etc.) may nominate an American History teacher.

For nominations, please include :

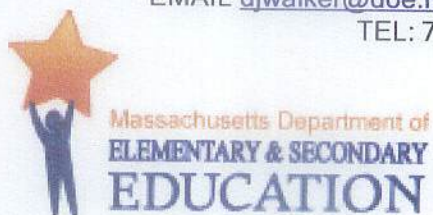
1. The first and last names of the history teacher being nominated;
2. Name and address of the history teacher's school;
3. A statement explaining why the history teacher deserves recognition; and
4. Your name & address.

DEADLINE for
NOMINATIONS:
Friday,
April 9, 2010

Please send nominations to
Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Program, Department of Education,
Attn. Deborah Walker, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148.

EMAIL djwalker@doe.mass.edu or fax 781-338-3370

TEL: 781-338-3347



Sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History under the supervision of *Preserve America*.

