



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Jacob Oliva
Secretary

Date: March 30, 2026

Subject: 2027 Gilder Lehrman National History Teacher of the Year

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

Stacy Smith
Deputy
Commissioner

Text:

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.

**State Board of
Education**

Adrienne Woods
Bentonville
Chair

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.

Lisa Hunter
White Hall
Vice Chair

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.

Dr. Gary Arnold
Little Rock

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](#)

Randy Henderson
Blytheville

Jeff Wood
Little Rock

Significant dates related to the nomination process:

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

Ken Bragg
Sheridan

Link to the nomination page:

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

Leigh Keener
Little Rock

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

Dr. Aaron Abbott
Springdale

David Peacock
Jonesboro