



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Six Students from GCCISD Represent Texas at National History Day Competition

Six students from Goose Creek CISD represented Texas at the 34th Annual National History Day competition at the University of Maryland.

Matthew Broussard, a freshman at IMPACT Early College High School, won first place for his performance titled "The Turning Point That Made America Forever Free."

Matthew placed first in the Performance category at the state level competition, earning him the opportunity to compete at the national level.

He was under the direction of Steve Koester.

For the past four years, Matthew has won first place at the state level in the Individual Performance category, and he also won first in the national competition as a seventh grader.

Matthew received a congratulatory email from Dr. James Basker, president of the Gilder Lehrman Institute, along with an invitation to participate in an internship at Columbia or New York University.

He also was invited by Kim Fortney, deputy director of National History Day, to perform at the American Association for State and Local History Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, in September as the NHD representative for the 2013 contest.

Rachel Lahowetz, an eighth grade student at Cedar Bayou Jr. School, won fourth place at National History Day in the Individual Website category for "Sputnik: The Russian Satellite That Changed America."

She placed second at the state level competition. Rachel was under the direction of Carrie Kinnaman.

Kaci Baker, Anahi Garcia, Giselle Perales and Daniella Valverde, eighth grade students at Horace Mann Jr. School, won third place in their performance room and were in the top 24 for their Group Performance titled "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory."

The students, under the direction of Ami Liggett and Suzy Ferrell, placed second at the state level.

"We are so proud of the 83 students who represented Texas. All had very strong showings and the fact that 31% of their entries ranked 14th in the nation or better is an amazing achievement," said Stephen Cure, director of educational services for the Texas State Historical Association, the sponsor of Texas History Day.

"Over 55,000 students across Texas competed at the local level in 2013 to earn the opportunity to represent Texas in this contest, which sees over 2,800 hundred students from 50 states, two territories, the District of Columbia, and several other affiliates in foreign countries compete to see who has the best history research and presentation skills."



Steve Koester, director of educational technology for Goose Creek CISD, smiles with pride as Matthew Broussard, freshman student at IMPACT Early College High School, receives a gold medal for his first place performance, "The Turning Point That Made America Forever Free," at the recent National History Day Competition at the University of Maryland.

Steve Koester, director of educational technology, accompanied the students to Maryland. A former history teacher, assistant principal, and principal, Koester has made 21 trips to the state contest and 12 trips to the national contest with students over the past 21 years.

He takes pride in the fact that Goose Creek has qualified students for the national competition for 22 consecutive years.

A love for History Fair was instilled in him by his mentor teacher Pat Kana, and Koester has stayed involved over the years by critiquing projects and driving the projects to the state and national contests.

Taunya Breaux, coordinator of social studies, and Ami Liggett, history teacher at Horace Mann Jr., also traveled with the group to the University of Maryland.

"All six of our students worked very hard to make it beyond state competition, and it is a huge honor to compete at National History Day," said Breaux. "I was so elated when Matthew's name was called as the first place winner! He has worked so hard year after year, and he is a very deserving young man. I am proud of all of our National History Day competitors."

"Congratulations to all of our students who competed at National History Day. I want to thank them, as well as their teachers and administrators, for the time and effort they put forth in preparing for this challenging competition. This is an experience they will always remember," said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Superintendent of Schools.

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