



**NATIONAL HISTORY DAY AWARDS THE PATRICIA BEHRING TEACHER OF THE YEAR
AWARD TO NEW JERSEY TEACHER**

June 21, 2022, College Park, MD—On Saturday, June 18, **National History Day® (NHD)** awarded **Mrs. Lizandaa Alburg**, a teacher at the Paterson Academy for the Gifted and Talented at School 28 in Paterson, New Jersey, the 2022 Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year for the Junior Division. Each of the 58 National History Day Affiliates may nominate one high school and one middle school teacher for this award.

Both division awards are sponsored by Patricia Behring, a life-long supporter of education, who recognizes teachers that excel at student-centric learning. The award comes with a \$10,000 cash prize in addition to the prestige of winning an internationally competitive award that recognizes social studies educators who demonstrate creative teaching methods that engage students in history and help them make exciting discoveries about the past.

Selected by a committee of experienced teachers and historians, Mrs. Alburg was recognized for her dedication to the NHD program by the New Jersey History Day Affiliate Coordinator Nancy Norris-Bauer: “Lizandaa is an extraordinary middle school teacher. Once she learned about the NHD program in 2013, she decided it would be a perfect fit for her students and has since mentored 223 gifted and talented middle school students in one of the largest urban school districts in New Jersey. ”

“Mrs. Alburg demonstrates the very best attributes of a history teacher. In addition to her enthusiasm, she is experienced, dedicated, knowledgeable, and innovative,” shares NHD Executive Director Cathy Gorn. “I am very proud to award Lizandaa Alburg the Patricia Behring Award during this tough year for teachers, especially teachers of history.”

About National History Day® (NHD):

NHD is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, that seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD is sponsored in part by, HISTORY®, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, the Crown Family Foundation, The Better Angels Society, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library and the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation. For more information, visit nhd.org.

About New Jersey History Day

New Jersey History Day is an affiliate of National History Day and a year-long educational program sponsored by William Paterson University. The annual program enables more than 5,000 New Jersey students in grades six through twelve the opportunity to learn about historical issues, ideas, people and events. These middle and high school students create original projects that explore a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme. Professional



Press Release

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development for teachers is offered through online courses and platforms, summer teacher institutes, workshops, and classroom outreach. For more information email njhistoryday@wpunj.edu.

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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Paterson – A Promising Tomorrow
Together We Can



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PAGT SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER NAMED MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR BY NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Lizandaa Alburg, 21-year veteran teacher, becomes first New Jersey teacher to win NHD's top national honor

PATERSON – Lizandaa Alburg, a 21-year veteran teacher who has led a series of district students to compete in the National History Day (NHD)'s state and national competitions, received the NHD Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award on Saturday. Alburg received the honor at a special ceremony at the end of NHD's national competition, which was held virtually. The prestigious national award is granted to one middle school teacher and one high school teacher annually, and Alburg is the first teacher from New Jersey to receive it.

“We are thrilled that Ms. Alburg has been named NHD's middle schools Teacher of the Year,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “For many years, Ms. Alburg has been dedicated to leading her students to develop their research, critical thinking, and creative skills through the National History Day contest. It's wonderful to see her great work being recognized on the national level. I congratulate her and all of the students she has helped along the way.”

Nancy Norris-Bauer, the head of New Jersey National History Day and William Paterson University's Director of Professional Development and School Community Partnerships, has credited Alburg with developing the NHD program at Public School No. 28/ Paterson Academy of the Gifted and Talented (PAGT).

Norris-Bauer has also cited Alburg's track record in working with the students as one of the reasons she was deserving of the award. Through her work in coaching and advising students, Alburg has led students to advance to the state level for nine of the past 10 years of competition, and to the national finals in 2019, 2021, and 2022.

Each year, more than half a million students throughout the country participate in the National History Day Contest. Students choose a historical topic related to an annual theme, and then conduct primary and secondary research. After students have analyzed and interpreted their sources and have drawn a conclusion about the significance of their topic, they present their work in one of five ways: as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a website.

New Jersey History Day is the National History Day state affiliate program and is sponsored by William Paterson University with funding support since 2000 from the New Jersey Historical Commission. New Jersey History Day works closely with educators, history organizations, and other New Jersey universities to engage middle and high school students in project-based learning, researching topics of their choice and connecting aspects of all topics to New Jersey history. The program has had consistent success in New Jersey with students developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help them manage and use information now and in the future. For more information email njhistoryday@wpunj.edu or call (973) 720-3131.