Research about the Civil Rights Movement, the political revolutions of 19th century Japan, and the development of anesthesia helped three Minnesota entries be selected as national champions at the 2012 National History Day competition. In addition, one student earned a full scholarship to Case Western Reserve University, one of only three scholarships available.

Image: Medal winner Jennifer Lor, with teacher Susanne Hollingsworth, Open World Learning Community, St. Paul. Lor received medal for senior individual documentary, "The Highlander Folk School." This video explained how the school was an influential training ground for Civil Rights leaders like Rosa Parks. Lor's entry also received one of four $5,000 HISTORY™ Awards.

Awards were announced, Thursday, June 14, in a ceremony at the University of Maryland just outside Washington D.C. In all, 18 entries from Minnesota won national honors where 63 Minnesota students joined almost 2,800 other students from across the nation in the week long competition.

The students, representing grades six through 12, from schools around the state, presented exhibits, papers, documentaries, performances and websites that showed off months of research into topics based on the 2012 National History Day theme: "Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History."

The top three national finishers in each category earn monetary awards. First place receives $1,000, second place receives $500 and third place receives $250. National History Day also recognizes one outstanding state entry in each division, junior and senior, with a medal.

In Minnesota, 30,000 students from more than 250 schools participate in the program each year. For more information and a complete listing of all the competition winners see the National History Day in Minnesota page on the Minnesota Historical Society's website at http://education.mnhs.org/historyday.