



NEWS RELEASE

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Three Western School of Technology students, special prize winners at Maryland History Day, advance to National History Day competition

Towson, MD – Western School of Technology students William Lin, Heleeben Patel, and Ella Roberts earned two special prizes during the Maryland History Day State Contest and as a result have advanced to the National History Day competition.

The Western Tech students were among nearly 500 middle and high school students from across the state who presented their historical research at the first in-person Maryland History Day State Contest in three years. The competition, held at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) on April 30, culminated a year-long Maryland Humanities program that involved nearly 20,000 Maryland students in Grades 6 – 12.

At the Maryland History Day event, Lin, Patel, and Roberts presented their research on “Apollo-Soyuz Test Project: Scientific Diplomacy Amidst the Cold War.” The students, mentored by teacher Christopher Pagliarini, won first place in the Senior Group Website category and earned the Michael E. Patten Memorial History Award for Best Use of Primary Sources, sponsored by the Frank Patten Family.

Maryland History Day, coordinated by Maryland Humanities, challenges students to work independently or in small groups to create original documentary films, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a historical topic related to an annual theme. This year’s theme was “Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.”

At the National History Day competition, Lin, Patel, and Roberts will compete among an estimated 3,000 participants from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia. The June 12 – 18 event will be virtual this year.

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