

JAMES C. OLSON MEMORIAL AWARD

The **James C. Olson Memorial Award** proposed for creation in 2007. The award is to be given annually provided there is an appropriate candidate, would go to a Nebraska teacher who epitomizes the best Nebraska educators have to offer in engaging, inspiring, and guiding their students to discover, enjoy, and learn from the fascinating and important histories we share. The award consisting of a plaque and a one-year membership with the Nebraska State Historical Society, would be limited to K-12 teachers who encourage and support their students in endeavors such as History Day, who use documents, oral history, or place in classroom projects, or who employ other imaginative or innovative methods to make Nebraska history come alive for their students. A committee drawn from the current NSHS Board of Trustees, the NSHS Emeritus Trustees, and the NSHS staff nominates/selects the recipient. This annual award is in the form of a plaque.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	
2015	Jo Ann Wallman	Bringing Nebraska history to life for her students since 1975 by providing activities that encourage understanding of the past and instilling in them a lifelong love of history
2014	Barry Jurgensen, Arlington	Encouraging student research leading to eight Nebraska sites' nomination to the Network to Freedom Underground Railroad project (National Park Service)
2013	Lori Broady, Johnson	Incorporating Nebraska history into National History Day themes to continue student learning at the secondary level
2012	No recipient selected	
2011	Mary Lou Green, Columbus	Helping students qualify for National History Day

		competition for each of the previous 25 years
2010	Gary Kastrick, Omaha	Helping students create Project Omaha, an in-school museum of South Omaha history
2009	Suzanne Ratzlaff, Hampton	Teaching students about history at the Farmers' Valley Cemetery near Henderson
2008	Jim Barstow, Lincoln	NSHS consumer; exemplary student performance at History Day; History Channel's Outstanding History Educator of the Year in 2006
2007	Moni Hourt, Crawford	Success of National History Day students