FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Centennial Bell Award Coordinator
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Nominations Now Being Accepted for 31st Annual Centennial Bell Award
Montana History Teacher of the Year

The Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award, honoring the Montana History Teacher of the Year, is now accepting nominations. Montana principals, superintendents, fellow teachers, or librarians from public and private schools statewide, are requested to nominate a 7th-12th grade teacher in their school who is doing an exemplary job in teaching Montana history during the 2019-2020 school year.

This is the 31st year the Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award has honored the Montana History Teacher of the Year. On even numbered years the award is given to a teacher at the 7th-12th grade level and on odd numbered years it is given to a teacher at the 4th-6th grade level.

Nominations may be emailed to award coordinator Norma Ashby Smith at ashby7@charter.net and are due by March 31, 2020. The email should include the nominator’s name, school, address, phone number and email, along with the teacher’s name, grade, school, address, phone number and email.

All nominees will receive application materials with a return deadline of May 13, 2020 for their entry to be considered. Nominated teachers will be asked to submit two letters of support, one from their nominator and one from a student. They will also need to include a one-page statement detailing why they enjoy teaching Montana history, how they engage their students in learning, and how their Montana history course recognizes cultural diversity. Nominees will be notified of the winner by May 22nd.
The winner and his or her class will be honored at a ceremony in the State Capitol on Friday, November 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The winner will receive a plaque and $3,500 toward classroom materials, field trips, speakers and anything else that will enhance their teaching of Montana history.

The program is sponsored by the Montana Television Network, the Montana History Foundation and the Sons & Daughters of Montana Pioneers, in cooperation with the Montana Historical Society.

For more information, please contact Norma Ashby Smith at (406) 453-7078 or ashby7@charter.net.

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