

Announcing a New WHA Teaching Award for Innovative Classroom Activities

Dr. Mark Welter has agreed to offer, through the agency of the World History Association, two awards for innovative **activities** that reach students, especially in challenging situations. One will go to a K-12 teacher and one to a community college instructor. Applicants, **who must be members of the WHA**, should include the following information and answer the overarching question:

How does this activity help students understand more fully the world history concepts of human diversity, interdependence, and cultural interaction?

Specifically, applicants need to include a 3-5 page overview of the activity in which the following questions are addressed, insofar as they are relevant:

1. What is the specific socio-economic, academic, and/or cultural context in which the activity took place?
2. Who are the students for whom the activity was crafted?
3. Were the students heterogeneously or homogeneously grouped?
4. Is the school located in a poor or affluent area?
5. Does the activity meet state curriculum standards?
6. How, if at all, is the activity interdisciplinary in nature?
7. What instructional techniques did you use?
8. How did you assess students' performance?
9. In what ways have you reflected on your practice as a result of this lesson? What, for example, went well? What challenges did you encounter?

In sponsoring these awards, Dr. Welter seeks to encourage teachers and instructors to show how they have employed a variety of activities that sharpen perspectives, provoke discussion, and expand curiosity about aspects of world history. He wishes to reward those innovative teachers who transmit the message of world history through activities that promote exploration, as well as deeper understanding of human diversity, interdependence, and cultural interaction -- the commonalities and mutual borrowings among the human community. Such activities will enrich and supplement, not supplant the standard curriculum and other pedagogical means. They are an attempt to introduce students to the human diversity, interdependence, and cultural interactions (often by way of mutual borrowings) inherent to world history.

Each winner will receive \$1,000 and a one-year membership in the WHA.

Submissions for the 2011 award competition should be submitted electronically to Jen Laden, chair of the WHA Teaching Prize Committee, at murphyladen@aol.com, no later than 1 June 2012. Model activities can be found at the WHA web site www.thewha.org.

Dr. Mark Welter, a member of the WHA since 1984, began teaching world history in 1963. After instructing at the secondary level for 7 years, he earned his doctorate at the University of Minnesota. He then began teaching his self-authored world history course at Saint Cloud State University. Today, he instructs world history and world religion courses in the University of Minnesota Senior Citizens Program.

Dr. Welter's teaching and support of the World History Association are based on the philosophy articulated by William H. McNeill: "Teaching world history is a high and noble undertaking because only world history offers sufficient dimensions of space and time to elicit needed awareness of the world we all share."

About Dr. Mark Welter:

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The World History Association is a community of scholars, teachers, and students who are passionately committed to the study of the history of the human community across regional, cultural and political boundaries.