



NJDOE News

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Marlboro Educator is 2008 New Jersey History Teacher of the Year

Glenn Healy, a social studies teacher at the Marlboro Memorial Middle School in Marlboro, Monmouth County, has been named New Jersey History Teacher of the Year for 2008 by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's Preserve America Program.

"Congratulations to Glenn Healy on his selection for such a prestigious honor," said Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy. "He has clearly distinguished himself in his field through his academic studies and work in the classroom. Marlboro Memorial Middle School students and their families are fortunate to have such a dedicated professional on board. We at the Department of Education send him our warmest wishes for continued success."

Healy has spent his eight-year career in education at Marlboro Memorial, where he teaches social studies to eighth graders. His personal path to a career in education was not the usual one, but it was a path that he says fueled and reinforced his desire to teach.

Healy grew up in Colorado, where he says the rich history of that state provided his original inspiration. After high school, he joined the U.S. Navy, an experience that allowed him to see many countries, especially those in Asia, and to observe many cultures. This experience, which included learning about the histories of other countries, reinforced his desire to learn more about American history and to eventually share his knowledge as a teacher.

He completed his tour of duty with the Navy and, at the age of 30, enrolled in the University of California at San Diego in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. After graduating with a degree in American history, Healy relocated his family to New Jersey. It wasn't long before he enrolled in graduate teacher education courses at Monmouth University, from which he received a master's degree in teaching. Shortly thereafter, he was hired by Marlboro for the position he still holds today.

"As a firm believer in that we as human beings can never learn enough, I not only try to continue to find ways to increase my knowledge of American history, but my students as well," said Healy. "By keeping them connected to the past, I hope to improve their critical thinking skills and better prepare them for the life awaiting them after school."

By his selection as New Jersey's state winner, Healy, a resident of Ocean Township, Monmouth County, is automatically a candidate for consideration in the selection of the National History Teacher of the Year. State winners are selected based on their experience in teaching American history for at least three years, their commitment to teaching American history, evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom, and close attention to documents, artifacts, historic sites and other primary materials of history.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Preserve America Program was established in 1994 to promote the study and love of American history. It has co-sponsored the History Teacher of the year program with the states since 2004.

Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages greater shared knowledge about the nation's past and increased local participation in preserving the nation's cultural and national heritage assets.