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State Historical Society presenting Governor's Awards for History

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society will be presenting the Governor's Awards for History this Saturday, May 4, during its annual history conference in Rapid City.

Four individuals and one organization are being recognized by the State Historical Society for their efforts in preserving state history.

The award winners include spouses Jim and Peg Aplan of Piedmont, Sandra Jones of Wessington Springs, Teresa M. Houser of Omaha, Neb., and the Klein Museum in Mobridge.

"These people are to be commended for their efforts at preserving our state's history," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "Because of their work, our past will be kept alive for future generations."

"We are pleased to give out these awards," added Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society. "These are just a few of the shining examples of how people across the state and beyond are helping us in our efforts to promote, nurture and sustain South Dakota history."

Aplans are the individual award winner. They have made it their life's work to preserve, protect and share artifacts, photo collections, museum collections and other memorabilia in Western, Rodeo and American Indian history. Jim has done appraisals for the State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The Aplans are also involved with several other museums, including the Western Heritage Museum in Spearfish, the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre and the Old Fort Meade Calvary Museum near Sturgis.

Jones was named the 2013 History Teacher of the Year. She teaches middle school and high school social studies for Wessington Springs; she has been there 21 of her 24 years in the profession. Jones says teaching gives her the opportunity to change lives. Her mission is to get her students to explore the importance of knowing history to allow them to be aware that their present will become their past, and that each day they are involved in the making of our history, whether they truly realize it or not.

Houser, an adjunct member of the political science faculty at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the history faculty at Midland University, is the winner of the Herbert S. Schell Award for best article in the previous year's *South Dakota History*, the State Historical Society's award-winning quarterly journal. Enacted as part of the "Indian New Deal," the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 sought to remedy the effects of

allotment and restore tribal self-government. In her article, "A Pivotal Decision: The Yankton Sioux and the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934," Houser examines the positive and negative impacts the legislation had on Yankton Sioux politics and economic development. Her article appeared in the Summer 2012 issue of the journal.

The Klein Museum is the organizational winner. Very few museums of its size compare to the quality of work done by Curator Diane Kindt and a group of about 100 volunteers who donate their time, talents and treasures to help ensure the success of the museum. One recent visitor referred to the museum as "The Smithsonian on the Prairie" because of the caliber of the contents. The museum's theme is "Preserving the Past for Those Stepping into the Future," and visitors never leave without feeling that they have had the opportunity of stepping back in time as they viewed the various exhibits.

The Saturday awards luncheon is part of this year's State Historical Society annual history conference, taking place Friday and Saturday in Rapid City. This year's theme is "Rivers Run Through It: South Dakota's Rivers and Streams and the Flow of History." Registrations are still being accepted. Call (605) 773-6000 for more information.

The State Historical Society is headquartered at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. For more information, visit www.history.sd.gov or call (605) 773-3458.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.