

# ESSAY CONTEST

# Hoosier Heroines: Moments in History

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*Students in grades 5 – 9, please complete this essay challenge for your chance to visit the Indiana Statehouse as a special guest of First Lady Karen Pence and Indiana’s female statewide office holders.*



***First Lady Karen Pence***

*Karen Pence has been a school teacher for more than 25 years. As First Lady, Karen continues her passion for educating children by traveling the state visiting schools. She thoroughly enjoys shining the spotlight on our amazing schools in Indiana.*

*In addition to traveling the state, Mrs. Pence is honored to have been named the official Bicentennial Ambassador by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. In this position, she will play a key role in celebrating Indiana’s 200th birthday in 2016.*

*Mrs. Pence earned a B.S. and M.S. in Elementary Education from Butler University. She and Governor Mike Pence have been married since 1985 and have three college aged children: Michael, Charlotte, and Audrey.*



*Lt. Governor  
Sue Ellspermann*



*Secretary of State  
Connie Lawson*



*Auditor  
Suzanne Crouch*



*Treasurer  
Kelly Mitchell*



*Superintendent of  
Public Instruction  
Glenda Ritz*

## **Contest Details:**

**Question:** Discuss a pivotal moment in U.S. or Indiana history and the role Hoosier women played in it. Your essay's focus can be political, cultural, or personal.

### **Guidelines:**

- Your essay should be typed, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced, 1" margins and 500 to 750 words in length.
- In addition to your essay, you must also submit the completed cover sheet and signed consent form. Both documents are included in this packet.

### **Electronic Submission:**

- To submit an essay electronically, documents must be in Adobe PDF format. This Essay Submission Kit is in Adobe PDF format. The cover sheet and consent form both have interactive or "writable" capability. That means you can type your information directly onto the PDF forms from your computer. However, you will need to download the "consent and release" form for student and parent/guardian signatures.
- Your submission should be emailed to this address: [idoaspecialevents@idoa.in.gov](mailto:idoaspecialevents@idoa.in.gov). The subject line of the email should follow this format: Hoosier Heroines essay, student's name, student's grade level.

### **Winners:**

- One winner from each participating grade level (grades 5-9) will be selected. Winning essays will be chosen by the following offices:
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Lt. Governor
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Secretary of State
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Auditor
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Treasurer
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Timeline:**

- February 20, 2015: Essay Submission Deadline
- March 12, 2015: Essay Winners Notified
- March 26, 2015: Essay Winners Awards Program at the Indiana Statehouse

***Each submission must be accompanied by this completed form.***

***Teachers may reproduce this page as needed.***

**Student Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State, ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Moment in history you are writing about: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of essay: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMISSION BY EMAIL: [idoaspecialevents@idoa.in.gov](mailto:idoaspecialevents@idoa.in.gov)

***Essays must be submitted by 4:30 p.m.  
on Friday, February 20, 2015.***

# Hoosier Heroine Essay Contest

## CONSENT AND RELEASE

**If you complete and submit this release: It will allow essays, the author's name, and the school's name to be featured in various venues, such as the Internet, in the future.**

**If you do not complete and submit this release: Use of your essay, the author's name, and the school's name will not be permitted on the Internet or for any other purposes**

**A signed copy of this release must be electronically submitted with the essay and cover sheet.**

This essay is my child's original work. I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the use of this essay for reproduction, in whole or in part, by the Indiana Lieutenant Governor's Office (LG), the Indiana Secretary of State's Office (SOS), the Indiana Auditor's Office (AOS), the Indiana Treasurer's Office (TOS), and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), hereafter collectively referred to as the "State of Indiana." I understand and agree that this essay may be used by the State of Indiana in various forms including digital or electronic formats, web sites, traditional print materials, or any other format that the State of Indiana deems reasonable. I hereby release and discharge the State of Indiana from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of essay, including any and all claims for libel, the right of publicity, and the right to privacy.

I agree to discharge the State of Indiana, the Office of the Governor and all agencies named above, their directors, officers, employees, and agents from any and all liability for any use, misappropriation, or disclosure of any information contemplated by this Consent and Release agreement.

### Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ I do give consent to and authorize the use of my child's name and the name of her/his school and other relevant public information for use in connection with the publication and /or use of the essay.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do **not** give consent to and authorize the use of my child's name and the name of her/his school and other relevant public information for use in connection with the publication and /or use of the essay.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent /Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Indiana's Female Statewide Office Holders:**



### **Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann**

Bio: <http://www.in.gov/lg/2347.htm>

Moment in Hoosier History: The Sisters of St. Benedict came to Ferdinand, Indiana in 1867 to fill a need for German speaking teachers and make a difference in the lives of local settlers. In 1870, the sisters opened Academy Immaculate Conception (later renamed Marian Heights Academy), a boarding school for girls. In addition to educating thousands of girls at the academy over the years, they have taught in more than 75 schools in 12 states and five countries. Currently, Indiana's Ferdinand Benedictines are one of the largest Benedictine communities of women in the United States. The Sisters of St. Benedict's commitment to both the local and global community spans nearly 150 years. In that time, they have led the way for women educators, served in groundbreaking positions of thoughtful and dedicated leadership and continue to live by example. I am immensely proud to share my hometown with such an accomplished group of women who I look to for guidance and inspiration but also have the privilege to call my friends.



### **Secretary of State Connie Lawson**

Bio: <http://www.in.gov/sos/2363.htm>

Moment in Hoosier History: As Indiana's Chief Elections Officer, one of the most pivotal moments in U.S. history for me was the 19th Amendment, which gave all American women the right to vote. Here in the Hoosier state, women joined together to form the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana, which became the driving force for the right to vote. In an effort to raise awareness and gain momentum in the fight for equality, the group held rallies, marches, participated in parades and lobbied the government. Over a 20-year period in Indiana, no fewer than 10 suffrage bills were unsuccessfully submitted to the Indiana General Assembly for passage and some were not even considered. It wasn't until January of 1920 that Indiana became the 26th state to grant women universal suffrage by ratifying the 19th Amendment that the U.S. Congress had just passed, but that wasn't enough to amend the United States Constitution. In order to amend the Constitution, 10 more states needed to ratify the amendment, which occurred on August 26, 1920. Over the years, the stories of those who organized, petitioned and picketed to win the right to vote have faded into the history books, but their tireless struggles and relentless efforts have not been forgotten.



### **Auditor Suzanne Crouch**

Bio: <http://www.in.gov/auditor/2346.htm>

Moment in Hoosier History: Female authors have contributed some of the best essays, poems, short stories and novels ever written to both Indiana and U.S. literature, but it was difficult at first for women to receive recognition for their work. Many times they wrote anonymously or under a masculine pen name in order for their work to be accepted. It wasn't until the mid-1800s following the women's suffrage movement that women finally began receiving credit as influential authors on a large scale, leading to a new school of thought and some truly great literary works. Authors such as Virginia Woolf, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charlotte Bronte, Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, Ayn Rand, Louisa May Alcott, Harper Lee, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Gene Stratton Porter (an Indiana author) pushed the boundaries of traditional writing styles and themes to inspire generations. These women opened the door for conversations about inequalities, stereotypes and injustices while encouraging readers to embrace nontraditional prose and enjoy stories full of adventure, fantasy and heroism. The women's suffrage movement changed the landscape for women on many fronts, but to me the opportunity to openly publish literary works and gain praise, criticism and credit is one of the most important.



### **Treasurer Kelly Mitchell**

Bio: <http://in.gov/tos/2347.htm>

Moment in Hoosier History: Grace Urbahns, from Porter County, served as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Treasurer of State in Indiana, from January 1926 to February 1931. Grace was appointed in 1926 to fill out her late husband's (Bernhardt Urbahn) unfinished term when he unexpectedly passed away. Grace went on to be elected to two further terms (at the time, the Treasurer of State's term was two years rather than the current four years). This was a remarkable accomplishment, coming only six years after women were granted the right to vote and to run for office. She was the first female elected statewide official in Indiana, and one of the first in the country. Grace was very active in the Republican Party, serving as National Committeewoman from Indiana and instilling a love of public service in her family. Her nephew, James Givens, went on to also serve Indiana as the Treasurer of State from 1941 until 1945.



### **Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz**

Bio: <http://www.doe.in.gov/idoesuperintendent>

Moment in Hoosier History: The Indiana Constitution of 1851 guarantees an education system that is "equally open to all." As a young woman in Indiana, I had many opportunities to learn and be successful, and I attribute this to the excellent education I received in the Indiana public school system. As I travel around the state, I am constantly inspired by the young people I see working hard and taking advantage of all that our great schools have to offer. As Superintendent, it is my greatest honor to uphold the Indiana Constitution and to ensure that Indiana schools continue to be equally open to all.