

The 2021 Bennett-Tinsley Award for Undergraduate History Research and Writing

Purpose of the Competition

This award encourages undergraduate research in a broad range of subjects related to Indiana and rewards excellence in history research and writing. Many areas of the state's past, especially related to the history of women, minorities (including race, ethnicity, and gender/sexuality), refugees, peace and social justice issues, and the environment have received limited attention in Indiana historiography. The purpose of this competition is to recognize students who examine these topics and produce scholarship that advances our knowledge of these understudied areas of Indiana history. Scholarship related to the history of racial injustice and inequality is particularly encouraged for the 2021 competition.

The Indiana Historical Bureau (IHB), a division of the Indiana State Library, coordinates the award in partnership with the [Indiana Association of Historians \(IAH\)](#). It is given in honor of Pamela J. Bennett, long-time director of IHB, and Katherine Tinsley, Manchester University professor, former president of IAH, and coordinator of the Peggy Seigel Writing Competition, which was the predecessor of this award.

Requirements of Research Paper

Submissions should be scholarly papers based on original research related to Indiana history. An eligible piece will support a well-defined thesis with appropriate primary source materials. The paper must both demonstrate knowledge of the relevant scholarly secondary works on the topic, as well as suggest how its findings fit into or expand the existing scholarship on the topic. The citations and overall style should conform to the standards laid out in the *Chicago Manual of Style* for foot or endnotes and include a full bibliography.

The paper must be between 10 and 20 double spaced pages in length, exclusive of citations and bibliography. Entries should be double-spaced and include page numbers. Entries should also include a title page that includes the author's name, contact information, college or university affiliation, and undergraduate status.

Eligibility

Entries may be submitted by those who are currently enrolled as undergraduate students and by those who are no more than twelve months beyond college graduation by the due date. The student does not need to be a declared history major, but preference will be given to students in related majors that are equipped to conduct primary source and archival historical research.

Procedure for Entry

Entries must also be accompanied by a signed letter of recommendation from a faculty member or other professional mentor who provided feedback to the student on preliminary drafts and can verify that it is an original work of scholarship.

Completed papers and letters of recommendation must be emailed to npoletika@library.in.gov by Friday, **February 12, 2021**.

Judging and Outcomes

The papers in this competition will be evaluated by a panel of judges with graduate and/or professional expertise in Indiana history. The judges will award the winner with a \$500 cash prize, runner up with \$300, and second runner up with \$200.* The winners will have their papers published on the [Indiana Historical Bureau's web page](#). Additionally, IAH will invite the winners to receive their awards at the Indiana Association of Historians annual meeting, which takes place **April 9-10, 2021** on a virtual platform due to the pandemic.

**The judges may choose not to make any awards in a given year.*