

The 2023 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 the Midwest, and rewards excellence in history research and writing. Many aspects of the region'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 the 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 and midwestern history. Scholarship related to the history of racial injustice and inequality is particularly encouraged for the 2023 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 or midwestern 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 [Nicole Poletika](#) by February 3, 2023.

Judging and Outcomes

The papers in this competition will be evaluated by a panel of judges with graduate and/or professional expertise in Indiana and midwestern history. The judges will award winners a cash prize of up to \$500.* The winners will have their papers published on the [Indiana Historical Bureau's web page](#). Additionally, the Indiana Association of Historians will invite the winners to receive their awards at IAH's annual meeting, which takes place on April 1, 2023 at Indiana University-Bloomington.

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