It is truly an honor to recognize Mr. William Reimers as the 2019 Arizona History Teacher of the Year- an award presented annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History; the nation’s leading organization dedicated to K-12 American History Education. Will is a history teacher at Trevor Browne High School and this year will be his 14th year teaching in Phoenix Union High School District.

Inaugurated in 2004, the History Teacher of the Year Award highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American History teachers from elementary school through high school. The award honors one K-12 teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and U.S. Territories. This award highlights the winner’s commitment to teaching American History, their creativity and imagination in the classroom, their use of primary sources, and their leadership and involvement in not just their school but also in professional history and social studies organizations. As part of the application process Will had to submit lesson plans and a project, letters of recommendation, a resume including evidence of how he continuously works to increase his knowledge of history by participating in professional learning opportunities and sharing this knowledge with his peers and students.

Will is a National Board Certified Teacher and in addition to a B.A in History holds two separate Master’s Degrees- one in International Relations and the other in Secondary Education. He is also an Arizona Master Teacher and a National Geographic Certified Educator. He is no stranger to awards and has been honored as an exemplary educator by the Phoenix Union High School District multiple times in addition to being honored by the Diamondbacks, the Arizona Council for the Social Studies, and the Arizona Education Association. Will just finished his term as the President of the Arizona Council for the Social Studies.

Tammy Waller, Director of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages at the Arizona Department of Education is amazed at the passion, creativity and commitment Will puts into his classroom and his work in the Social Studies Community. She wishes she had a teacher like Will when she was in high school.

In his nomination letter, Syd Golston, Past President of the National Council of the Social Studies and former member of the Phoenix Union High School District Community writes that she remembers best a class when reenactor Will, dressed as a barbarian conqueror, invading Rome. She also highlighted Wills work with the Phoenix Union Teaching American History in the Schools grant and wrote that Will always goes above and beyond in all he does. He was even the photographer and recorder for the summer workshops that grant recipients attended.

Will brings history to life for his students and is committed to providing high quality education to ensure all his students not only learn but have a positive experience.

In addition to a $1,000 honorarium, Trevor Browne High school will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials.