SAMPLE: 2008 MEDIA/PRESS RELEASE

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Quick Facts:
- Event: South Central Regional History Day
- Date: [Event Date Here]
- Time: 9:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.
- Place: Minnesota State University, Mankato, Student Union
- Cost: Free
- Call for more information: 651/503-9326

HISTORY DAY STUDENTS TO EXPLORE CONFLICT AND COMPROMISE IN HISTORY AT MINNESOTA STATE, MANKATO

MORE THAN 30,000 STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE STATEWIDE IN 2008

History is not just for textbooks anymore. Through their work for History Day events, thousands of students throughout the state are delving into topics of their own choosing, relying on their own research and creativity to put a face on events of the past. History Day, sponsored locally by the history department at Minnesota State, is part of a statewide program co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota history department. Over 300 students from schools in South Central Minnesota will gather in the Minnesota State, Mankato student union to present their exhibits, documentaries, and performances at the regional History Day event on [Regional event date here].

History Day requires students to go beyond facts and dates to explore a historical topic analytically and in depth. In preparing a project about their findings, they learn skills used by exhibit designers, filmmakers, historic interpreters and scholars. The 2008 theme, “Conflict and Compromise in History,” is merely a starting point for students’ projects. There is an infinite variety of topics to choose — from the Civil War to the Crusades, students become the expert on local, national and world history topics.

Over the past 19 years, the History Day program in Minnesota has grown from 125 to more than 30,000 participants, according to state coordinator Tim Hoogland. “Students become more interested in history because they are not just covering something in their textbooks. Their research shows them that the key to history is discovering information about the past and how it still has meaning today,” Hoogland says.

The South Central History Day event involves students in grades 6 through 12 who attend public, private, charter and home schools in the region. Winners at the regional events will advance to State History Day on [State History Day Date] at the University of Minnesota. State winners are eligible to go on to the National History Day competition in Washington D.C. in June.

Financial support for History Day in Minnesota has been provided by 3M, Wells Fargo, the Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust, David Larson, and Matt Entenza and Lois Quam.