

# NATHAN MCALISTER

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## EDUCATION

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2000 - 2006	Emporia State University	M.A.T. History
1990 - 1995	Kansas State University	B.S. Education/History

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Kansas State Department of Education**—*Humanities Program Manager*—Topeka, KS | 2021 – Present  
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- ⇒ **Leading** — *History, Government and Social Studies* — review and adoption of Kansas’ unique inquiry-based standards, including support materials, and programs to support educational systems.
- ⇒ **Managing** — *Teacher Leader Program* — supervising a team of 22 elite educators who guide the development of educational materials and diverse professional learning opportunities for educators statewide.
- ⇒ **Spearheading** — *Classroom Based Assessment* — the creation and implementation of an innovative inquiry-based state assessment program based on the C3 Framework
- ⇒ **Coordinating** — *Essential Understandings Task Force* — Co-Chairing the Indigenous Essential Understandings Task Force with multiple Tribal Nations and allies to develop a systematized strategy for enhancing Indigenous education in Kansas.
- ⇒ **Directing** — *Educational Initiatives* — overseeing a budget of nearly \$1 million to support educational initiatives and partnerships with state and national organizations to provide professional development opportunities.

**Seaman High School**—*Seaman Public Schools USD 345*—Topeka, KS | 2017 – 2021

**Royal Valley Middle School**—*Royal Valley USD 337*—Mayetta, KS | 2004 – 2017

**Highland Park High School**—*Topeka Public Schools*—Topeka, KS | 1997 – 2004

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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**2021 – Current, Council of State Social Studies Specialists (CS4)**

- Elected as a Director, 2023 – contributing to strategic initiatives that enhance social studies education.
- Co-Chaired the CS4 Constitution Committee to produce a comprehensive constitutional guidance document for members.

**2013 – 2021, City Council Member and President, Hoyt, KS**

- Led the city council through an extensive codification of ordinances to improve governance efficiency.
- Created and coordinated a unique multifaceted debt elimination program.
- Collaborated with local, state, and federal agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic to implement effective safety protocols.

**2017 – 2021, Position 5, Royal Valley School Board**

- Collaborated with board members to champion the academic and social well-being of students, parents, and educators.

# PROFFESIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

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## **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York, NY, *Master Teacher Fellow*, 2012 – Present**

- Organized and facilitated 55 distinct educator programs at various sites and school districts across the U.S. utilizing Gilder Lehrman's Teaching Literacy through History process, while also creating several original, thoroughly researched unit and lesson plans.
  - **Notable Projects:**
    - ***Civics through History: Taking a Stand for Voting Rights***, 2022 - 2023  
Researched and wrote a series of lessons that highlight and elevate the contributions of marginalized communities, and presented several national professional learning opportunities
    - ***National Cemetery Administration, Veterans Legacy Project***, 2019 - 2021  
Coordinated, researched, and wrote educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Project, and facilitated five national virtual workshops highlighting the stories of veterans.
    - ***Council on Foreign Relations, World 101 Project***, 2020 - 2021  
Coordinated, researched, and wrote lessons highlighting the unique role of the United States in the world, and presented several national professional learning opportunities.

## **Kansas State Department of Education**

- *Continuous Learning Plan*, March 2020 – Selected to assist in developing guidance for the state of Kansas during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- *Navigating Change*, Summer 2020 – Selected to lead the *9-12 Implementation Team* to create materials, and implementation guidance for Kansas teachers during the 2020-2021 school year.
- *Standards and Assessment Review and Writing Committees*, 2012/2013 and 2018/2019

## **Kansas Council for History Education**

- *Executive Board, Treasurer*
  - Maintains accurate and timely account records, oversees the collection of dues, and organizes the annual conference.

## **Civics Learning Week**

- *Speaker Panelist and Committee Member*
  - Selected to serve on a national panel of education leaders to address issues in civics education. Contributed to the development of a toolkit to support implementation of civics activities in schools across the US.

## **George Washington National Library**

- *Life Guard Teacher, Fellow*
  - Selected as one of five teachers nationwide to participate in this program. Developed a series of lessons and teaching resources focused on the life, legacy, and leadership of George Washington.

## **Fred Korematsu Institute**

- *Double Displacement: Exploring the Intersecting Histories of American Indian Communities and Japanese American Confinement Sites in Arizona*, October 2024

## **Organization of American Historians and the National Park Service**

- *Educational Consultant and Advisor*, Legacy of the War of 1812, 2016-2018

## **Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes**

- *Curriculum Team Leader*, 2016-2020 – Selected as team lead to design and create curricular materials utilizing the stories and resources of the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes.

## Kansas State Historical Society

- *The Kansas Journey*, Textbook Reviewer/Advisor/Curriculum Designer, 2016-2020
- *Lesson Plan Creator*, Read Kansas Cards, History and Reading Curriculum Standards, 2008-2010
- *Content Advisor*, National Library of Congress Digital Newspaper Project, 2011-2013
- *Kansas Project Archaeology*, Co-Coordinator and Presenter, 2011, 2012, 2013

## Brown v. Board of Education, National Historic Site

- *Curriculum Content Advisor*, National Park Service, 2012, 2013

## Five Star Leadership Simulation (Eisenhower Presidential Library), Crisis at Little Rock—50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

- *Content Advisor and Master Teacher*, 2007 – One of six educators selected to advise and lead a one-of-a-kind experiential learning program at sites around Little Rock, AR.

## Kansas 150<sup>th</sup> Governor's Blue-Ribbon Panel

- *Committee Member*, 2010-2011 – One of ten people personally selected by the Governor to identify Notable Kansans and Events as part of the state's Sesquicentennial celebration

# AWARDS AND HONORS

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**2021**—Distinguished Service Award — City of Hoyt

**2018**—Kansas History Day Teacher of the Year — Kansas History Day Foundation

**2015**—Outstanding American History Teacher of the Year — Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution

**2015**—Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, Fellowship

**2013**—National Educator of the Year — Santa Fe Trail Association, National Park Service

**2011**—Greater Topeka, 20 Under 40 Honoree — Topeka Area Jayhawk Council

**2010**—Educational Achievement Award — National Underground Railroad Conference

**2010**—Kansas History Teacher of the Year — Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History

**2010**—National History Teacher of the Year — Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History

**2006**—Legacy of Brown v. BOE, Lesson Plan Award — *Everyday Segregation*

**2005**—Instructional Excellence Award — Royal Valley USD 337

**2004**—Guest Speaker — Sesquicentennial Territorial Kansas Celebration, Kansas Statehouse

**2004**—Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Honoree — Emporia State University

## Selected Educational Grants

- **Teachers as Scholars in Kansas (TAH) Grant**—One of 36 Kansas teachers selected to participate in a federal Teach American History (TAH) Grant through Emporia State University and the US Department of Education.
- **Brown v. Board of Education (TAH) Grant**—One of 36 Kansas teachers selected to participate in a federal Teach American History (TAH) Grant through Washburn University, ESSDACK, and the US Department of Education.
- **James Madison Legacy Project**—One of 50 Kansas teachers selected to participate in a federal grant, through Kansas State University, aimed at furthering civics education.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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- **National Organization Presentations:**
  - Council of Chief State School Officers | 2024
  - Western Historical Association Conference | 2024
  - Council for the Social Sciences | 2006, 2019, 2020, 2023, 2024
  - National Indian Education Association, Convention and Trade Show | 2022, 2023, 2024
  - National Social Studies Leaders Association | 2021, 2022
  - National Council for History Education | 2007, 2011, 2017
  - Mount Vernon Teacher Institute | 2020 and 2021
  - Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Conference | 2010
- **State Organization Presentations:**
  - Maine Department of Education: Teacher Training in the age of Covid | 2020
  - Georgia Council for the Social Studies | 2020
  - Kansas State Social Studies Conference | 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025
  - Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers (ECET2) | 2017, 2018

## INTERVIEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

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- ***“Teaching American Indian History with Primary Sources.”*** | Contributor and Reviewer, December 2020
- ***“Teaching Civics in the Age of Trump,”*** Christian Science Monitor, | November 2016
- ***“History Does the Heavy Lifting.”***, National Council for History Education, Blog, | March 31, 2016
- ***“A Teacher’s Quest for Meaning and Relevance.”***, Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, Blog, | July 2015
- ***“Legislating Curriculum.”*** *History Matters!* National Council for History Education. Volume 26, Number 5. | January 2014

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- National Council for the Social Studies
- National Council of State Social Studies Specialists
- National Council for History Education
- National Indigenous Education State Leaders Network
- Kansas Council for the Social Studies
- Kansas Council for History Education
- National Indian Education Association
- Council on Foreign Relations
- iCivics-National Educator Network