

Belz-Lipman Award for
Excellence in Holocaust Education
2022 Winners



Jordan Bernardini teaches African American History, AP Human Geography and the Facing History and Ourselves elective course at his alma mater, Germantown High School, in the Memphis-Shelby County school district. In his class, students learn that the study of history is not only about avoiding mistakes of the past, but about developing an understanding of who we are and who we may possibly become, as a nation and as a worldwide community. In his free time, Jordan enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and two children and serving in his church.



Dennis Cox was raised in Liberal, Kansas. He graduated from Kansas State University with a B.A. in History and holds a Master's Degree in Secondary Administration. Dennis has been an educator for 43 years and teaches AP European History, Dual Credit U.S. History and psychology at Wilson Central High School (Mt. Juliet, TN). Dennis has Holocaust survivors visit his class and has taken students to Dachau and Auschwitz. He believes it is important for students to understand critical events of the past, and how those events shaped our world. He will be teaching a new class for the 2023-24 school year, Understanding the Holocaust. Dennis considers himself a passionate history teacher who believes it is important to enhance a critical awareness and engagement with Holocaust and genocide education among our students who are vital in so many ways to the future of our country.



(Rebecca) **Becci Dixon**, was born in Tennessee, but has lived in Maryland, Florida, Tennessee, and Mexico. She is the proud parent of a son and two daughters. She graduated from Tennessee Wesleyan University with a Bachelor's in Education in K-8 and a 9-12 Secondary Endorsement in ELA. She obtained her Principal's License from Walden University. She has been teaching for 20 years with the last 18 years at the high school level where she teaches English 12, English 10, and Psychology. She incorporates Holocaust studies into each of them. She has taken her students to synagogues and Holocaust memorials in order to meet numerous Holocaust survivors and help students appreciate the Jewish faith, its traditions and history, as well as to better understand the atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust. She was one of five teachers chosen from across the U.S. to attend the 2009 Holocaust Symposium in Chicago sponsored by Holland & Knight. She first became interested in the Holocaust from listening to her dad, a Master Sergeant in WW2, tell of his experiences in liberating the Mauthausen Concentration Camp and fighting for freedom. She has furthered her knowledge through extensive reading, research, and documentaries on the subject.



Brandon Eldridge teaches AP US History at Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. This is Brandon's 14th year in education and has taught topics on the Holocaust every year of his career. He is married to Lindsey and they have two children (Carter(9), McKinsley (3)). Brandon received a Master of Arts from the University of Nebraska - Kearney with a concentration in Constitutional and 20th-century history. His graduate research focused on the Legal History of Nazi Germany. Brandon uses this research to better inform his students about the Holocaust by using primary sources and stories from survivors.



Allison McSwain, born and raised in Cadiz, Kentucky, and a graduate of Austin Peay State University, has been an educator for 17 years. She is the proud mom of her 15-year-old daughter. Allison began her teaching career in Oregon and currently teaches 8th grade ELA in Williamson County at Legacy Middle School. Allison's passion for learning and teaching about The Holocaust began back in high school when reading *The Hiding Place* and *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, then taking a Holocaust literature course in college, as well as visiting the Anne Frank House in the Netherlands. While teaching in Oregon, Allison worked with The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education's Speakers' Bureau to have two survivors share their stories with her students. Most recently she worked with The Tennessee Holocaust Commission so the 8th grade students at LMS had the opportunity to hear a survivor's story. Ms. McSwain shares, "These students will carry this information and these stories with them and share with others...to carry on the legacy of the survivors and the victims of The Holocaust."