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For Immediate Release

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***Schierhorn, LaBelle, Barnes, and John G. Riley Museum  
Win 2014 AASLH Award of Merit***

NASHVILLE, TN—June 2014—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that Ann Schierhorn, David LaBelle, both of Kent State University, and Althemese Barnes, director of the John G. Riley Museum, are the recipients of an Award of Merit from the AASLH Leadership in History Awards for the exhibit “[They Led the Way](#).” The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 69th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

“They Led the Way” tells the stories of eight students who desegregated the schools in Tallahassee, Fla. The exhibit, created for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is the work of Schierhorn, professor in the Kent State School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and features photography by LaBelle, director of the Kent State photojournalism program. They collaborated with Barnes, who helped to locate several of the critical sources.



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The exhibition premiered in September 2013 at the John G. Riley Center/Museum of African American History and Culture in Tallahassee, where it will be open through Dec. 1, 2014. A duplicate exhibit was shown at Kent State University in January through March 2014.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer seventy-seven national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. Presentation of the awards will be made at a special banquet during the 2014 AASLH Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Friday, September 19. The banquet is supported by a generous contribution from the History Channel.

“They Led the Way” was the only Florida exhibit to win an award.

The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203, or go to <http://www.aaslh.org>.



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The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful in American society. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, and monthly newsletter. The association also sponsors regional and national training workshops and an annual meeting.

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Photo provided. Please use **David LaBelle** photo credit.

For cutline: The display on Harvard-educated attorney Marilyn Holifield engages visitors at “They Led the Way,” a school desegregation exhibit at the John G. Riley House Center/Museum of African American History and Culture. From left, Annette Thorpe of Tallahassee, her daughter Elaine Thorpe Cox of Atlanta, and Dr. Edward Holifield of Tallahassee.