

Northwest Middle School Student Documentary Receives Local, Statewide Acclaim

A documentary produced by students at Northwest Middle School has received numerous accolades. The first award came in April 2014 when the documentary, produced by students Lyric Ray and Hanna Hayles, earned second place at the Tennessee History Day competition. On Sept. 14, the documentary will be screened at the Knoxville Film Festival student film competition, and most recently, the students were informed that their work will be screened at the [Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture](#) at Tennessee State University in February 2015.

The students now are ninth graders at West High School (Ray) and Karns High School (Hayles). They produced the documentary last year under the direction of Chris Standridge, an eighth grade social studies teacher at Northwest Middle School, who was named a Tennessee History Day Teacher of the Year during the 2014 Tennessee History Day competition.

The documentary, entitled, "If Not Us: The Rights and Responsibilities of America during Segregation," depicts the Freedom Riders of the 1960s. During the [Knoxville Film Festival](#) on Sept. 14, it will be screened at Regal Downtown West Cinema 8 (1640 Downtown West Boulevard) beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Additionally, a documentary produced by Northwest Middle School students Brooke Allen and Lindsey Jones (also former students of Standridge) will be screened during the same competition at the Knoxville Film Festival.

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