



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### **East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Blount Countians With History Awards of Excellence**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 18, 2016 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 3, 2016 at the Foundry on the World’s Fair Park in Knoxville. Since 1982, the Society has been annually recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming and interpretation of the region’s history. Two Blount County initiatives were among the 31 awards presented.

- **Miranda Talley Reagan** received the *Teaching Excellence Award* for her Martin Luther King, Jr. project. A third-grade teacher at Sam Houston Elementary, Maryville, Ms. Reagan incorporated service learning, STEM techniques, and active learning pedagogy to design an intensive project for her students to learn about Martin Luther King, Jr. Lessons involved a study of King’s life, his “I Have a Dream” speech, the Civil Rights Movement, and an option to march in the Blount County Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration March.
- **David Black** received the *Award of Distinction* for *Tanasi 1796*. In February 2016, more than 700 people attended *Tanasi 1796*, a live stage production telling the story of East Tennessee’s early settlement through the lives of Captain Joseph Black and Cherokee Chief Attakullakulla. David Black, the production’s creator, wrote the script, enlisted musicians, secured sponsors, marketed the program, and enlisted the participation of historical organizations. Proceeds benefitted the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Association.

#### **About the East Tennessee Historical Society:**

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society has 2,000 members across the United States. Its active publications program includes the biannual genealogy magazine *Tennessee Ancestors*; the annual *Journal of East Tennessee History*; and *Newslines*, as well as other books pertaining to the region’s history. The Society also sponsors the Museum of East Tennessee History, East Tennessee National History Day, and the family heritage programs “First Families of Tennessee” and “Civil War Families of Tennessee.”

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