



SAN MATEO  
COUNTY  
OFFICE OF  
EDUCATION

Anne E. Campbell • County Superintendent of Schools

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 22, 2016  
No. 7

## **San Mateo County Student Named Finalist at National History Day**

REDWOOD CITY, CALIF. – A San Mateo County student was named a senior finalist at the National History Day Contest held earlier this month at the University of Maryland, College Park. Joshua Lee, a student at El Camino High School, was honored for his paper titled *Shanghai: The Last Jewish Refuge*, a history of Jewish Holocaust refugees living in Shanghai.

National History Day is a yearlong program that can be incorporated into middle and high school curriculum. More than half a million students participate each year by creating classroom research projects focused on a central theme. This year's was "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History." Qualified students submit projects in one of five categories—documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website—and the winners of statewide competitions go on to participate in the national competition. In California, 73 of the 1,215 students who competed in the state competition qualified to advance. Eight of those students won medals, and nine others, including Joshua, were honored as finalists.

The San Mateo County Office of Education would like to offer its heartfelt congratulations to Joshua and the other state winners for their strong showing at National History Day! Special thanks also to Joshua's teacher, Brian Hawkinson, and El Camino High School for supporting and inspiring their students. Keep up the great work!

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The San Mateo County Office of Education is dedicated to serving our county's 23 school districts and helping deliver a top-rate educational experience for our nearly 94,000 students.