

## 2016 Belz-Lipman Winners Announced

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission (THC) announces the winners of the 2016 Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator Award. These educators will receive a \$1500 scholarship which can be used to develop new curriculum, purchase resources and attend trainings that will help further engage their students in the study of the Holocaust. The award established by Memphis entrepreneurs and philanthropists Jack A. Belz and Ira Lipman recognizes outstanding educators who excel in the teaching of the Holocaust.

### Middle Tennessee

- **Geoffrey Smith- St. Andrew's Sewanee School, Sewanee, TN**



**Geoffrey Smith** has been teaching History and Social Studies to ninth and twelfth grade students for the past four years at the St Andrew's-Sewanee School. Geoffrey believes that asking today's students to grapple with the unsettling events of the Holocaust has implications for the future of American foreign policy, science, medicine, interfaith dialogue, and other contemporary political, social and ethical concerns. He says that he measures the success of his teaching through the decisions his students make in confronting acts of prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination.

### East Tennessee

- **Camille Benson-TN School for the Deaf, Knoxville, TN**



**Camille Benson** is in her tenth year of teaching Social Studies at The Tennessee School for the Deaf. She believes that making the past meaningful and applicable in her students' lives will help ensure that the past does not continue to repeat itself. Her students are able to make a connection with the European deaf who experienced persecution, suffered through medical experiments, forced sterilization, and murder under Hitler's regime. Camille says that her definition of success regarding this subject material takes on a different perspective from the traditional view of academic success. She states that when her students' hearts have been transformed and they relate to the stories of victims from the Holocaust and personalize the people in these stories as individuals, that's when she knows she has succeeded as a teacher.

### West Tennessee

- **David Boone-White Station High School, Memphis, TN**



**David Boone** a teacher at White Station high school has taught for seventeen years. He also works part time at Mesick Adult High School and at LaMoyne-Owen College. David is passionate about teaching English, and Theater classes and has found that topics that focus on diversity influence the students he teaches in ways that change the way that they approach life. Boone believes that the value of teaching the Holocaust is amazing and that all students need to receive Holocaust education so that genocide doesn't continue to repeat itself.