



GRAND CANYON
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #4



Grand Canyon School Teacher Named Arizona History Teacher of the Year

Grand Canyon, Arizona – August 3, 2026 – Janna Radarian, a teacher at Grand Canyon Unified School District #4 in Grand Canyon, has been named the 2026 Arizona History Teacher of the Year by the [Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#). Since 2004, this distinguished award has recognized exceptional K–12 educators for their remarkable work in teaching American history.

“History teachers play an essential role in helping students understand the past, build critical thinking skills, and develop a deeper appreciation for the people and events that shaped our nation,” says James G. Basker, president and CEO of the Gilder Lehrman Institute. “We are proud to recognize educators who go above and beyond to make history engaging, meaningful, and relevant in their classrooms.”

The annual recognition program, presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute—the nation’s leading nonprofit for K–12 American history education—celebrates one outstanding teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools, and U.S. Territories. It recognizes educators for their dedication, creativity, and effective use of primary sources. Nominees are recommended by students, colleagues, or school leaders and selected by state committees of historians and educators.

Janna Radarian teaches at Grand Canyon School - the only K-12 public school in a National Park. She is in her eighteenth year of teaching middle school social studies to students in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth. She leads an annual capstone field trip to Washington, D.C. for all of her eighth grade students. She loves teaching government related topics because she

believes that all students, no matter what they do in the future, need to know how they can be the change they wish to see in their communities. Janna spends her free time outside with her husband and son, either hiking or biking.

As the 2026 Arizona History Teacher of the Year, Radarian will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, a curated collection of American history books and educational materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute, and recognition at a local ceremony. They will also join 52 other honorees as a finalist for the 2026 National History Teacher of the Year Award.

"Mrs. Radarian is a model of excellence both in and out of the classroom. She is intentional with planning, instruction and supporting others. Her students and colleagues look up to her with utmost respect. The impact she has on students is life-long, and it's been incredible watching her students grow from year to year. I am so grateful for all she brings to our school, and for taking our children to Washington, DC each year." Principal Lori Rommel

The national winner will be announced this fall at a special ceremony at the Harvard Club of New York City and will receive a \$10,000 grand prize. To view the full list of 2026 state honorees, please visit the [Gilder Lehrman Institute website](#).

About The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, visionaries and lifelong supporters of American history education, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to K–12 history education while also serving the general public. The Institute's mission is to promote the knowledge and understanding of American history through educational programs and resources.

At the Institute's core is the Gilder Lehrman Collection, one of the great archives in American history. Drawing on the 86,000 documents in the Gilder Lehrman Collection and an extensive network of eminent historians, the Institute provides teachers, students, and the general public with access to unique primary source materials.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is supported through the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Organization of American Historians, the Council of Independent Colleges, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Learn more at gilderlehrman.org.