

Press Release

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Local Teachers Attend Belfer National Conference for Educators in Washington, D.C.

Prescott, AZ - Selected along with only two hundred other teachers nationally, Mardi Read, a Language Arts teacher from Granite Mountain Middle School, and June Lombardi, a Language Arts teacher formerly with Chino Valley High School, traveled to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on June 28th to participate in the prestigious Belfer Conference for Educators. Established at the Holocaust Museum in 1993, the conference provides middle and secondary educators with the tools to effectively integrate the complexity of the Holocaust into teaching materials for students in social studies, history, language arts, and journalism.

The three day conference included special guided tours of the Holocaust Museum's permanent exhibits, and its newest exhibit: "**State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda**", an exhibit dedicated to understanding the role of the Nazi control of the media during the Holocaust. The educators attended lectures by the Museum's world-renowned scholars, including Dr. William F. Meinecke Jr., Senior Historian, and Scott Miller, Director of Curatorial Affairs, and workshops designed to provide teaching materials relevant to today's students. Each evening the Museum was kept open exclusively for use by the conference participants, allowing them additional study time to explore the many displays and exhibits.

When asked how the Belfer Conference will better prepare her to discuss the Holocaust with her students, June Lombardi said: "I am more knowledgeable and prepared with tools for my classroom." She went on to add, "I do not think I would have been able to create the type of lesson plans I will be using this coming year, had I not been at the conference." Mardi Read echoed those sentiments when she stated: "This experience will enrich my classroom instruction." Read went on to say: "One of my goals is to teach my students about valuing people's differences and not to tolerate injustice." Their attendance at the conference was made possible through funding by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Prescott. For more information about the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum please visit www.ushmm.org and for information about the Jewish Community Foundation visit www.jcfgp.org.