

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING 2020 AWARDS CITATIONS

2020 Public Outreach Grant

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference's 2020 Public Outreach Grant is awarded to Dr. Megan Kassabaum (University of Pennsylvania) for her proposal entitled "From Classroom to Museum and Back Again: Public Outreach in Wilkinson County, Mississippi."

Dr. Kassabaum's project builds on her long-standing collaboration with community members in Wilkinson County, Mississippi to promote public engagement with the history of Native American moundbuilding populations in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Here, she proposes to extend the reach and impact of a museum exhibit she co-created at the Wilkinson County Museum in 2019 by developing and implementing targeted educational outreach with the local school systems. She plans to work with local collaborators and to develop and implement a three-phase field-trip and in-class curriculum. This will involve (1) bringing all fourth-grade students in the two local school systems to the exhibit and to local archaeological sites; and (2) providing their teachers with resources to teach a pre-visit lesson that offers background on archaeology and Native American history and a post-visit lesson that emphasizes the continued presence of Native people in the region. This curriculum aligns with existing fourth grade educational standards in Mississippi even as it offers specific curricular innovations informed by the successful *Unpacking the Past* program at the Penn Museum. Its implementation strategy is carefully mapped out over several months, and promises to extend the connections Dr. Kassabaum has already begun forging between Wilkinson County's youngest residents and the archaeological record. Consultation with the Choctaw Nation was included in planning the proposal.



Photo by University of Pennsylvania

Note from SEAC: Ordinarily, it is expected that the Public Outreach Grant will be implemented within a few months of notification of the award, and completed by the time of the annual meeting; that was the plan for this grant as well. However, as with so much else in 2020, this plan was disrupted by limitations in travel and field work due to the pandemic. Dr. Kassabaum requested an extension, and the SEAC Public Outreach Grant committee and Executive Committee were happy to approve the extension. We look forward to hearing about the implementation of the grant in 2021.