



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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JOHN HENRY EXHIBIT TO BE ON DISPLAY

Charleston, WV — A new traveling exhibit, *John Henry: The Steel Drivin' Man*, will be on display at various locations throughout West Virginia from February 8, 2010 through July 11, 2010. The exhibit was developed by the West Virginia Humanities Council and designed by students at West Virginia University. It won a 2008 Annual Creativity Award from an international design competition based in Louisville.

John Henry is the second traveling exhibit produced by the Humanities Council to provide a learning experience for college students during the design phase. The exhibit, created especially for small display venues, will give viewers a better understanding of the legend of the famous steel driver who defeated a mechanized steam drill in a contest that some believe occurred during construction of Big Bend Tunnel in Summers County in the 1870s.

John Henry and his man-versus-machine struggle are immortalized in one of the world's best-known folk songs. Audio samples of the song by performers such as Johnny Cash, Van Morrison, Woody Guthrie and Mississippi John Hurt are featured in the exhibit along with samples by traditional West Virginia performers the Lilly Brothers, the Fruit Jar Guzzlers and others.

The exhibit is available for display at no cost to host venues. Humanities Council grants are also available for programs that supplement the display of *John Henry*. The exhibit was made possible with the generous financial support of Verizon and the *We the People* program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Organizations interested to display the exhibit should contact the West Virginia Humanities Council at 304-346-8500 for scheduling information.
