

## **Paterson students advance to national History Day contest - NorthJersey.com** NorthJersey.com

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**PATERSON** – Kaltoum Alibrahimi and Monika Salam are carrying on a [Paterson](#) tradition.

The 17-year-old students from Kennedy’s academy of Science Technology Engineering and Math recently emerged as winners in the state’s 2013 National History Day competition, an achievement that will send them to Maryland in June for the national contest.

“It’s good to see them so excited about history,” said their history teacher Eric Glatz. “It’s something they can get something valuable out of.”

Neither girl is a stranger to winning the History Day competition. Both have qualified for the nationals in the past, according to Kathleen Renegar, history teacher and co-advisor of [Paterson](#) Public Schools’ National History Day program.

In the history day contest, students submit projects – such as museum-type exhibits, plays, documentaries, or reports – about historical topics that judges then evaluate. The judges included teachers, college professors and museum curators.

The girls won for their exhibit on Rachel Carson’s book, “Silent Spring,” which focuses on environmental problems prior to the 1960s.

Alibrahimi said the effort in this project took a lot of time, but she didn’t consider it “a chore.” It was top priority for her even though she often stayed after school to finish the project.

Her main goal was to “obtain information understandable to the audience and judges ... not just for the audience to read, but to understand.”

Salam missed some classes in order to work on the project, but stayed after school to make up work. “We worked together good,” said Salam.

The completed project was a huge sense of accomplishment for the girls. “It was unexpected,” said Monika.

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