

## **Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation Announces Winner of Gravely Award**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*April 28, 2004*

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James Alberston, a history teacher at Clover Hill High School, has been awarded the first annual Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. Award for demonstrated excellence in teaching the history of the American Civil War. The Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation instituted the award in honor of Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Admiral Gravely is a Richmond native and the first African American to reach flag rank in the United States Navy.

Mr. Alberston will receive the award from Virginia Secretary of Education Belle S. Wheelan on Monday, May 3, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at Clover Hill High School. As Secretary of Education, Dr. Wheelan also serves as an *ex officio* director of the Foundation. The Foundation exists to educate Virginians of all ages, but especially school children, about the conflict that still shapes our nation.

Nominations for the award were solicited from the Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico, and Hanover school districts. Mr. Alberston was selected for his demonstrated ability and success in teaching Civil War history from multiple perspectives and in a manner that promotes a sense of a shared national heritage. "Mr. Alberston's dedication to his students and to learning over the past 37 years is truly remarkable and we're proud to present him with this award," said John Motley, Chairman of the Tredegar National Civil War Center Board of Trustees.

### **ABOUT THE FOUNDATION**

The Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization formed to create the first museum and learning center in the United States that will tell how modern America emerged from the Civil War. The Center will show how the dynamic interplay among the three major participant groups in that war—Union, Confederate, and African American – changed the course of American history. The Center will have national and regional ramifications. It will anchor the western end of the Canal Walk by attracting new visitors to the Richmond area and serving as a gateway to other local and regional attractions. Also, it will offer a variety of learning opportunities for all ages with Web-based programs, community dialogs, and leadership studies.

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