



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Virginia Commonwealth University
Professor with History Award of Excellence**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 19, 2016 – The East Tennessee Historical Society's (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization's Annual Meeting on May 3, 2016 at the Foundry on the World's Fair Park in Knoxville. Since 1982, the Society has been annually recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming and interpretation of the region's history. A Virginia Commonwealth University initiative was among the 31 awards presented.

- **Gregory D. Smithers** received the *Award of Distinction* for his book *The Cherokee Diaspora: An Indigenous History of Migration, Resettlement, and Identity*. Tracing the Cherokee people's story from the 18th century to the present, *The Cherokee Diaspora: An Indigenous History of Migration, Resettlement, and Identity* explores East Tennessee's connection with the forces of settler colonialism, economics, and trade, while also explaining how Tennessee Cherokees shaped these changes by defending landholdings, migrating west of the Mississippi, and cultivating connections with their homeland and kin.

About the East Tennessee Historical Society:

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society has 2,000 members across the United States. Its active publications program includes the biannual genealogy magazine *Tennessee Ancestors*; the annual *Journal of East Tennessee History*; and *Newsline*, as well as other books pertaining to the region's history. The Society also sponsors the Museum of East Tennessee History, East Tennessee National History Day, and the family heritage programs "First Families of Tennessee" and "Civil War Families of Tennessee."

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