

2018 Award of Recognition

Melissa Ziobro

Anyone who knows New Jersey history knows Professor Melissa Ziobro as the relentlessly upbeat, incredibly energetic editor of *New Jersey Studies*. She is certainly that, but much more. Ziobro is a born and bred New Jerseyan who received her B.A. in history and political science and her M.A. in United States history from Monmouth University. From 2004-2011 she worked as a historian at Fort Monmouth, beginning her tenure there as a student trainee and ending as a supervisory historian. After the closure of Fort Monmouth she began a second career as specialist professor of public history at Monmouth University. In this position she has developed numerous new courses, advised the University on a wide variety of historical issues, and touched the lives of numerous students.

Although her work in the classroom is exemplary, her efforts beyond the classroom are commendable and noteworthy. Her passions are public and oral history. She regularly consults for leading New Jersey historical associations, most notably, she is a long-time consultant to and InfoAge Museum, she is a trustee of the Parker Farm 1665, and she has been a guest curator for the Monmouth County Archives and the Monmouth County Historical Association. Ziobro was also a guest curator for the Monmouth County Historical Association's Superstorm Sandy Exhibit, and for the Monmouth County Park System's restoration of Battery Lewis.

Ziobro serves as a board member of the Middle Atlantic Oral History Association and is a critical member of the New Jersey History Day team. Perhaps most significantly, she is the editor of *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. She has had a transformative impact on the journal, broadening its scope, raising its profile, and establishing the journal as one of the foundational activities of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

She is the author of numerous articles and reviews, many focused on military history, her beloved Fort Monmouth, World War II, Gilded Age Princesses, oral history, and food history. She has also co-authored a textbook on American economic history with Walter Greason and Bill Gorman. She regularly presents at local and regional conferences and to historical groups across the state.

New Jersey history has benefited tremendously from the energy and enthusiasm of Professor Melissa Ziobro.