

**For Immediate Release:**  
May 16, 2013

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**Jesse White and Illinois Press Association Announce Spotlight Awards For Outstanding Literacy Students and Tutors**

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and Dennis DeRossett, executive director of the Illinois Press Association, honored the winners of the 2013 Spotlight on Literacy Awards recognizing outstanding students and volunteer tutors in Illinois literacy programs. The 10 award-winning students received the Spotlight on Achievement Award while 10 volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service award.

"I am honored to congratulate these outstanding students for seeking to enhance their reading, writing, math and language skills," said White. "Many of them have overcome tremendous personal difficulties and obstacles, and they are now on the path to lifelong learning. I am also proud to recognize our outstanding volunteer tutors for helping students achieve their utmost potential. I believe each of us should give something back to our neighbors and our communities, and these tutors are a wonderful example of the positive impact that comes from volunteerism."

"This is a special achievement that will reshape the lives of these adult learners," said DeRossett. "The Illinois Press Association and Foundation is pleased to co-sponsor the Spotlight awards with Secretary White each year. We congratulate the students for breaking through the barriers of illiteracy, and we give thanks to the tutors for their time and commitment to helping others."

Participants were recognized at a ceremony at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. Spotlight on Achievement winners received \$200 from the Illinois Press Association Foundation, a plaque and personalized Illinois Blue Book. Spotlight on Service winners received \$200 from the Illinois Press Association foundation, which will be awarded to the literacy program for which they volunteer, a plaque and personalized Illinois Blue Book.

The Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office spends approximately \$6 million each year to support Adult, Family and Workplace literacy programs throughout the state. This year, 164 programs are in operation serving all regions of Illinois. During fiscal year 2012, 19,930 adult students were served by literacy programs that received grants from the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office. Approximately, 7,976 tutors volunteered to instruct students. Those nominated are involved in programs that receive grants from the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office.

Below is a list of award winners:

2013 Spotlight on Achievement

- **Sadia Bachir**, Albany Park Community Center in **Chicago**.
- **Emmitt Cole**, Richland Community College in **Decatur**.
- **Angelica Cortes**, Corazon a Corazon at St. Michaels Parish in **Chicago**.
- **Gloria Crosby**, De La Salle/Tolton Center in **Chicago**.
- **Tennie Fitts**, South Suburban College in **South Holland**.

- **Anna Moran**, Albany Park Community Center in **Chicago**.
- **Jim Niehoff**, Arlington Heights Memorial Library in **Arlington Heights**.
- **Vonda Ottwell**, John Wood Community College in **Quincy**.
- **Nathan Watson**, Frontier Community College in **Fairfield**.
- **Xiao Ying Zhang**, Regional Office of Education for Monroe/Randolph Counties in **Chester**.

2013 Spotlight on Service

- **Linda Berry**, Kaskaskia College in **Centralia**.
- **Robert S. Boone**, Oakton Community College in **Skokie**.
- **Audrey Colby**, Albany Park Community Center in **Chicago**.
- **Stuart Harris**, Township High School District 214 Community Education in **Arlington Heights**.
- **Alice Mora**, Corazon a Corazon, St. Michael's Parish in **Chicago**.
- **Cheryl Stolz**, CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation in **Effingham**.
- **Eugene Swedo**, Township High School District 214 Community Education in **Arlington Heights**.
- **Laurie Tyler**, Black Hawk College in **Moline**.
- **Norman Weinberg**, De La Salle Institute in **Chicago**.
- **Barbara Worner**, YWCA in **Pekin**.

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