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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 along with Dennis DeRossett, executive director of the Illinois Press Association, honored the winners of the 2014 Spotlight on Literacy Awards recognizing outstanding students and volunteer tutors in Illinois literacy programs. Ten students received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and ten volunteer tutors received Spotlight on Service Awards.

“Every year I look forward to congratulating these outstanding adult learners for their hard work and determination in seeking to obtain lifelong reading and learning skills,” said White. “Many of them have overcome enormous difficulties and personal obstacles to reach this level of achievement. I am also very proud to recognize our outstanding volunteer tutors for their dedication and encouragement in helping literacy students achieve their utmost potential.”

“The Illinois Press Association is excited to help continue the significant effort to promote literacy in Illinois,” said DeRossett. “The men and women honored today have achieved great things in the face of adversity to improve their reading skills. Representing nearly 500 Illinois newspapers, we are proud to join Secretary White in co-sponsoring this event that provides well-deserved recognition to outstanding literacy students and volunteer tutors.”

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 a personalized *Illinois Blue Book*. Spotlight on Service winners received \$200 from the Illinois Press Association Foundation to be awarded to the literacy program where they volunteer, a plaque and a personalized *Illinois Blue Book*.

The Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office awards approximately \$6 million in grants each year to support Adult, Family and Workplace Literacy programs throughout the state. This year, there are 157 programs serving all regions of Illinois. During Fiscal Year 2013, 19,392 adult students were served by literacy programs that received grants from the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office. Approximately 7,795 tutors volunteered to instruct students.

Below is a list of award winners:

2014 Spotlight on Achievement:

- **Julie Andrus**, YWCA Pekin.
- **Kayti Carter**, Frontier Community College in **Fairfield**.
- **Sabra Dawson**, Frontier Community College in **Fairfield**.
- **Amy Golke**, De La Salle/Tolton Center in **Chicago**.

- **Corey Hibbler**, Southwestern Illinois College in **Belleville**.
- **Em Thu Tran**, Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley in **St.Charles**.
- **Erasmus and Guadalupe Vargas**, De La Salle/Tolton Center in **Chicago**.
- **Zitlalitl Vargas**, De La Salle/Tolton Center in **Chicago**.
- **Telesforo Villasenor**, De La Salle/Tolton Center in **Chicago**.
- **Doris Wright-Simmons**, De La Salle/Tolton Center in **Chicago**.

2014 Spotlight on Service:

- **Peter Barclay**, Common Place Family Learning Center in **Peoria**.
- **Linda Buechting**, John Wood Community College in **Quincy**.
- **Linda Cesario**, Arlington Heights Memorial Library in **Arlington Heights**.
- **William M. Curry**, Urbana Adult Education Center in **Urbana**.
- **Ruth Hurley**, School and Tutors on Wheels in **LaGrange Park**.
- **Dr. Carolyn J. Kampe**, Prairie State College Adult Literacy Institute in **Chicago Heights**.
- **Joyce Philpott-Moore**, De La Salle/Tolton Center in **Chicago**.
- **Carole Shegog**, Carazon a Corazon in **Chicago**.
- **John and Marilyn Walker**, Township High School District 214 Community Education in **Arlington Heights**.
- **Victor Zamora**, YWCA in **Pekin**.

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