

INSIGHT

Jesse White · Secretary of State & State Librarian

Secretary White awards \$1.4 million to school libraries

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded fiscal year 2007 school library per capita grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million to 726 Illinois public school districts. The grants will help provide library services to nearly 2 million students in more than 3,400 school libraries.

“Every year the State Library awards per capita grants to help school libraries purchase books, subscriptions to valuable electronic resources, improve technology to support student research efforts and other purposes,” said Secretary White. “These funds enhance student learning and help school libraries provide high-quality library services.”

Grant funds must be used to support the services of the district’s school library media program. The funds cannot be used for capital improvements such as shelving or wiring. This year’s grants

provide \$0.71 per student to support school library services, with a minimum award of \$100. Grants are awarded to tax-supported public school districts that are members of one of Illinois’ regional library systems.

Illinois was the first state in the nation to enact a public school library per capita grant program, and the program remains a resounding success. Studies have proven that student achievement is positively impacted by the presence of libraries in schools.

“Librarians and staff employed in our school libraries work very hard to help students achieve their utmost potential,” added Secretary White. “I am pleased that this grant program helps keep our school libraries strong and gives our students access to the essential resources they need to be successful and set them on the path to lifelong learning.”

Excitement builds for Illinois Library Day — April 19

Hundreds of Illinois librarians and library supporters will come to Springfield on Thursday, April 19, to lobby their local legislators as part of Illinois Library Day activities.

Events kick off with a breakfast for Illinois lawmakers at the State Library. Participants will then visit lawmakers in their offices at the Capitol Building. The highlight from 2006 festivities will return as attendees gather at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and march en masse to the State Capitol for an enthusiastic rally.

A record 600 librarians took part in Library Day activities last year, and organizers are confident that this year's event will equal or break that record. Look for a complete wrap-up of Illinois Library Day activities in the next issue of *Insight*.

Organizers of Illinois Library Day on April 19 are hoping for the same large and enthusiastic crowd that turned out for last year's rally.



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Mix of old and new LSTA grant offerings this year

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants are some of the most popular grants offered by the Illinois State Library. Libraries, library systems and museums with libraries may apply for the grants, which are administered by the State Library with funds provided by the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services.

The deadline for applying for the grants is May 11, 2007, with grants being awarded in late September. A minimum of 40 percent of the LSTA grants awarded will relate to “The Strategic Plan for Technology & Telecommunications for Illinois Libraries,” which is posted at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. To mark the 10th anniversary of the LSTA grant program, the State Library will host a reception for this year’s grant recipients during the Illinois Library Association’s annual conference in Springfield in October. The FY08 LSTA grants offer a mix of old and new grant offerings from which to choose:

Emerging Grant Writer — This new grant is designed to encourage persons who have never written a successful LSTA grant to apply. The grant seeks to alleviate the first-time grant writer’s apprehension by easing them into the grant-writing process. The application should focus on a new or enhanced activity, program or library service.

Safety Grant — Libraries must be ready to provide information and training on issues relating to the safety of their patrons and the community as a whole. Through the new Safety Grant offering, libraries can provide training, educational programs or demonstrations on issues relating to safety.

Digital Imaging — This popular grant is back, which allows libraries to create electronic versions of their materials and collections, specifically Illinois-related historical and cultural materials. This grant cycle has an emphasis on World War II and materials on local history as they relate to the state and nation in a historical and cultural context. Proposals for projects in other subject areas also will be considered.

Libraries: Innovate, Create, Collaborate — Illinois libraries have a national reputation for developing innovative and creative partnerships, programs and services. To continue this tradition, these grants provide libraries the opportunity to create partnerships that will reflect a deep understanding of the community, with an emphasis on innovative and creative programming and services.

Demonstration of Public Library Services — These grants are targeted toward promoting the value of public library services to Illinois residents who live outside a taxed library service area. Applicants are encouraged to explore innovative methods of providing services and address the needs of the unserved population in their communities.

Developing a Statewide Technology Toolkit — Through these grants, regional library systems are encouraged to collaborate and cooperate on a statewide initiative to enhance library services using new technologies such as blogs, RSS, Wikis and instant messaging.



Ask?Away celebrates first year

April marks the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Illinois State Library’s Ask?Away virtual reference service. The program allows libraries to interact with users via chatting, instant messaging and e-mail, and is part of an international reference cooperative of hundreds of librarians around the world who provide 24/7/365 reference service. More than 200 academic, public, special and school libraries in Illinois participate in Ask?Away, along with five regional library systems. For more information, visit www.askawayillinois.info.

Vietnamese librarians visit State Library

A group of 15 librarians from Vietnam spent a week in February at the State Library, meeting with library staff and learning about the library's operations. The visit included tours, seminars and hands-on training, as well as participation in the Illinois Digitization Institute's "Beyond the Basics" course taught by State Library Digital Imaging Program manager Alyce Scott.

The visit was the result of an ongoing partnership between the State Library and the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois. The Vietnamese librarians spent eight weeks in Illinois after spending the fall attending classes at Simmons College in Boston, Mass. The group also attended an American Library Association meeting in Seattle.



The State Library hosted 15 librarians from Vietnam in February. The group was in Illinois for eight weeks as part of an arrangement with the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Construction Grant Program workshops

The State Library will present four workshops this spring on the fiscal year 2008 Live & Learn Construction Grant Program. The workshops are designed for libraries that are considering applying for a construction grant in the fall. State Library staff will review specifics of the program and discuss the application process. Registration is required and may be made online through the State Library's CLEO Web site at www.islcleo.org.

Workshops:

- Tues., April 24, 1-3 p.m. — Metropolitan Library System, Burr Ridge
- Thurs., April 26, 10 a.m.-noon — Alliance Library System, East Peoria
- Tues., May 1, 1-3 p.m. — Illinois State Library, Rm. 403
- Thurs., May 3, 1-3 p.m. — Benton Public Library, Benton

2007 Synergy class

Congratulations to those librarians selected to participate in the 2007 Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative. Synergy is the statewide library community's proactive movement to recruit and develop future Illinois library leaders. The group will take part in three three-day seminars, the first of which was held March 20-22 at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica. The other two seminars are August 7-9 at Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton, and November 6-8 at Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, Lisle. The Illinois State Library, the Illinois Library Association and their partners are sponsors of Synergy.

Synergy 2007 participants

- Ely M. Anderson, Library of Rush University
- Leslie M. Bednar, Lewis & Clark Library System
- Stephanie M. Bonjack, VanderCook College of Music, Ruppel Library
- Christine M. Cahill, Carrie Busey Elementary School, Champaign
- Jane W. Candela, Packer Engineering, Inc.
- Lauren Collen, Niles Public Library District
- Amber Creger, Chicago Public Library, Woodson Regional Branch
- James A. DiDonato, Round Lake Area Public Library District
- R. Toby Greenwalt, Westmont Public Library
- Jacob Hill, Elmhurst College, A. C. Buehler Library
- Katharine James, Illinois State University, Milner Library
- Gary W. Jones, Southeastern Illinois College
- Pamela Kloser, Joliet Public Library, Black Road Branch
- Jannette La Roche, Moline Public Library
- Portia Latalladi, Chicago Public Library, Garfield Ridge Branch
- Nancy R. Maloney, BP America, Inc.
- Halle Mikyska, Kane County Law Library
- Rob Morrison, University Library-Chicago Campus, National-Louis University
- Geoffrey W. Morse, Northwestern University Library
- Karolyn Ann Nance, Fremont Public Library District
- Lisa Y. Pappas, Plainfield Public Library District
- Lisa Poignant, Chillicothe Public Library District
- Maria Pontillas, Glenview Public Library
- Blaine Redemer, Illinois State Library
- Melissa Roser, DePaul University, The John T. Richardson Library
- Lisa Sarm, Lincoln Public Library, Springfield
- Molly Scanlan, Benton Public Library District
- Brian Shepard, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
- Heidi Richter Smith, Waukegan Public Library
- Bryan Vogh, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Greater Midwest Region

SAVE THE DATE

April 15
National Library Week

April 19
Illinois Library Day
Springfield

June 3-8
Small Public Library Management Institute
Springfield

June 10-15
Institute for School and Public Librarians
Bradley University, Peoria

October 9-12
ILA Annual Conference
Springfield

November 1-3
Illinois School Library Media Association
Fall Conference
Springfield

Francis Keppel Award

State Library Director Anne Craig and Ron Winner, FSCS Coordinator (Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data) at the library, were selected as winners of the 2006 Francis Keppel Award by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The award was given to states submitting prompt, complete and high-quality public library data. Craig and Winner were among only a handful of first-time winners.



State Library former Chief Deputy Director Mike Ragen (right) shares a laugh with Kathryn Harris of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and Joe Harris, director of the Shawnee Library System, at a retirement reception for Ragen at the end of January. Ragen served as chief deputy since joining the State Library in 1999 and served as acting director in 2005.



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