

LITERACY

SUMMER
2003

ILLINOIS

Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

In this issue of *Illinois Literacy*, you will be introduced to the 2003 Spotlight on Achievement Award winners. These top 10 literacy students are to be commended for their hard work and perseverance toward achieving their literacy goals. You also will meet the 10 Spotlight on Service Award winners — outstanding literacy tutors who provide one-on-one instruction to these and other literacy students. I applaud these volunteers for their efforts in helping others enhance the quality of their lives through literacy.



Penny Severns Summer Family Literacy grant projects currently are working to keep families reading throughout the summer. For the second year, the program is being supported by a donation of more than 1,300 books from a sorority of women educators. I thank the Lambda State Chapter for their generosity and ongoing commitment to literacy in Illinois.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

Adult Education Legislative Awareness Day

Adult learners, literacy practitioners and volunteer tutors from across the state gathered in Springfield on April 10 for Adult Education Legislative Awareness Day and to show support for ongoing funding from Secretary of State Jesse White's literacy grant program.

Participants visited the State Capitol Building where they were eager to meet legislators and share their experiences with them. Many of the students were visiting the Capitol for the first time. In addition to meeting their state representatives, the students were excited to see that other students throughout Illinois are learning to read in programs like their own. They were struck by the fact that literacy is an issue that crosses community and ethnic boundaries.

Sponsored by the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educator's Association, the annual Legislative Awareness Day was designed to foster unity among adult learners and literacy practitioners across Illinois.



Students and literacy practitioners eagerly wait to board buses out of Chicago heading to Springfield for Adult Education Legislative Awareness Day in April.

www.gedillinois.org

A learning system developed by the Illinois Community College Board allows Illinois residents to prepare for the GED exam. Information about the actual test is available at www.acenet.edu/calec/ged/.

www.startspot.com

Books, Homework, Library, Employment and Government are some of the "spots" to check out. HomeworkSpot.com offers activities for all school ages as well as information for parents and teachers and a reference area.

www.ed.gov/Family/agbts/Questions/

Parents can learn more about how to help their children excel in school (English and Spanish).

www.YesICanKids.gov

A colorful, interactive site for children in English and Spanish that provides a list of popular stories to read, a showcase of student artwork and a link to the White House's Web site.

The *Illinois Literacy* newsletter is now available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com

September 8, 2003 International Literacy Day



From left to right, Lambda State Literacy Committee members Joan Brown, Bloomington; Nancy Polios, East Moline; Mary Sutton, Peoria; Bridgette Otterbacker, Waukegan; Diane Kenney, Rochelle; and Carol Gelwicks, Normal, stand behind some of the 1,300 books collected by the organization for the Penny Severns Summer Family Literacy Program.

Filling the shelves

For the second year, the Lambda State Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International collaborated with the Secretary of State's Literacy Office to collect books for the Penny Severns Summer Family Literacy Program. The books are used in projects across the state to help promote reading and learning throughout the summer.

More than 1,300 books from the 50 Lambda state chapters were collected at the recent state convention in Itasca. The books were labeled with information about the Lambda organization, sorted, bundled and delivered to the 55 Penny Severns programs. For more information on the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, check out deltakappagamma.org/IL.

Penny Severns program grantees also received a donation of books from a generous individual who had accessed the Illinois State Library/Literacy Office Web site last year. A big thanks goes out to this individual.

For more information on the Penny Severns Summer Family Literacy program, please contact the Literacy Office at 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576, #1 then #3.

FY2003 Penny Severns Grant Summary

- ✓ 75 applications received
- ✓ 55 projects funded
- ✓ \$249,512 awarded
- ✓ 1,857 families served

With the help of Secretary of State literacy funding, Lakefront Supportive Housing (formerly Lakefront SRO) has been able to match more students than ever with volunteer tutors. Since January alone, Lakefront has formed a partnership with DePaul University and the results have been spectacular. Two pre-GED tutor groups, two literacy and writing skills workshops, and two basic skills groups have been offered, allowing us to serve an additional 20 students in the last quarter.

We also are happy to announce that Secretary of State funding has allowed us to hire another permanent staff member. Susan Thomas has joined our team and will serve as our full-time learning specialist. In addition to prior teaching and social service experience, she brings a clear sense of education as empowerment.

Our Resource Library also has expanded to include additional adult education books and volunteer tutor support materials. These additions and advancements would not be possible without the generous support of Secretary of State Jesse White's literacy program, and we look forward to an even brighter future!

Jennifer Patterson
Lakefront Supportive Housing, Chicago

Night of 1,000 Stars

Each year, the neighborhood literacy coalitions in Chicago host their own "Night of 1,000 Stars," during which adult learners read their works, dance and show how much they have learned. Families, friends and literacy staffs attend to cheer them on and admire their works. This year, the southside group called their celebration the "Drama-Read-a-Rama." The westside coalition awarded certificates of achievement to participants, and the northside group was pleased to have Secretary of State Jesse White in attendance for their festivities.



Southside Coalition



Northside Coalition



Westside Coalition

Spotlight on Achievement and Service Awards

Secretary of State Jesse White and Nancy Bohl of the Illinois Press Association (IPA) presented awards to 10 Illinois literacy students for outstanding progress in learning to read and to 10 volunteer tutors for their commitment to literacy students. Each student winner received \$100 from the IPA Foundation, a plaque, a personalized *Illinois Blue Book*, a package of donated books and a six-month subscription to his or her local newspaper. Each volunteer tutor winner received a plaque, a personalized *Illinois Blue Book* and a six-month subscription to his or her local newspaper. The IPA Foundation also donated \$100 in each of the volunteer winner's names to the literacy program for which they volunteer. Articles and pictures also are available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Congratulations to all the Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service Award winners!



Spotlight on Achievement Award winners

Front row, left to right: Rosalinda Balderas, Albany Park Community Center, Chicago, with daughters Ruby and Linda Ruiz; Mia Crowder, Common Place, Peoria; Carolyn Foster, DeLaSalle-Tolton Center, Chicago; Erika Romero and Alejandro Quezada with daughter Leslie Quezada, Kankakee Community College; and Carl Rice, Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield. Back row, left to right: Francisco Villa, Whiteside Regional Office of Education, Sterling; Beatrice Allen, Blue Gargoyle, Chicago; Min Li, Literacy Volunteers of DuPage, Naperville; Secretary of State Jesse White; Cecelia Tilsley, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills; Murnel Rumbolt, Oakton Community College, Skokie; and Nancy Bohl, Illinois Press Association.



Spotlight on Service Award winners

Front row, left to right: Marcia Cromer, Waubensee Community College, Aurora; Elise Sode, John A. Logan College, Carterville; Margaret Harris, The Literacy Council, Rockford; Betty Edwards, The Literacy Council, Rockford; Dorothy Dunham, Common Place, Peoria; and Edna Bruce, Frontier Community College, Fairfield. Back row, left to right: Carol Little, Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield; Dorothy Lashbrook, Kaskaskia College, Centralia; Secretary of State Jesse White; Sr. Mary Luke Kapraun, Common Place, Peoria; George Szubka, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn; and Nancy Bohl, Illinois Press Association.

Spotlight on Achievement profiles

One student left school at age 8 to help support her family. She went back to school after her husband passed away, and her reading and writing abilities have greatly improved. Being able to read nutritional facts on food containers also has improved her health.

A mom felt inadequate because she could not read the directions on her baby's formula. Now her reading and self-confidence have greatly improved.

Since enrolling in a literacy program, one student's life has been transformed. She has made significant gains in both reading and math. She also is a member of the Adult Learner Leaders support group and volunteers at a weekly food pantry.

As a single mother of five, one student made a commitment to turn her life around for herself and her children. Learning is now a family adventure, and she has been accepted at a culinary school.

After leaving her family in China to come to the United States, one student began working with a tutor to learn English. She has become a citizen and has secured several jobs and is hoping to be reunited with her family soon.

A family left Mexico and moved to the United States to obtain employment. After getting a job, the father enrolled in adult education classes and the entire family participates in the Family Literacy Program.

One student was forced to read in school and hated it. After taking classes to learn to read, he no longer fears or hates reading and is able to help his children with their homework. He also has been promoted at work.

Another student went to work at a very young age to help support his family in Jamaica. After learning to read as an adult, he now has the freedom and independence to go places by himself without relying on others. He has become a U.S. citizen and can now manage the paperwork for his business.

Another student changed her life in many ways after learning to read. She passed the GED test in spite of a learning disability and makes workshop presentations for students and other tutors at statewide conferences. She also tutors students and encourages them to keep trying and to not give up.

In spite of multiple disabilities, one student's communication skills in English have greatly improved. He continues to learn English while caring for and teaching his two young sons, who have become proficient in both Spanish and English.

For more information on the Spotlight program, please contact Diane Manning at 800-665-5576, #1 then #3, or dmanning@ilsos.net.



SEPT. 8	International Literacy Day www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Programs then Literacy) • www.reading.org/meetings/ild/
OCT. 2-3	Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center's Fall Conference, East Peoria 800-572-9033 • www.cait.org/ciaesc
OCT. 14-18	Illinois Library Association Conference, Springfield www.ila.org/events/conference.htm
OCT. 23	Family Literacy Institute, Tinley Park Monica Mazur, 847-803-3535, ext. 316 • www.thecenterweb.org (click Adult Learning Resource Center)
OCT. 24-26	Illinois New Readers for New Life Conference, Carl Sandburg College, Galesburg Karen Avalos, kavalos@sandburg.edu • Eartha Johnson, ejohnson@nslsilus.org

Mini grants awarded at three conferences

The Secretary of State Literacy Office offered mini grants to literacy projects attending three state conferences. Participants at the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educator's Association's Annual Conference, the Illinois Family Literacy Conference and the Literacy Volunteers of America – Illinois Conference were eligible to apply for the grants. Grants were awarded to 14 literacy projects. Following are a few of the projects:

Conversation Cafés at LVA, Fox Valley

At a Conversation Café session, students and volunteers order from a menu of conversation topics. Servers bring envelopes full of questions and refreshments to the tables. Participants select a question from the envelope to ask others at their table. The Café gives adult learners the opportunity to improve their English and enjoy conversation with English and non-English speakers at the same time.

Library Resource Challenge, John A. Logan Community College

Adult learners receive two library resource cards each with a list of four activities. Activities range from attending an orientation on using the library to reviewing career development information. The activities can be completed during eight separate visits to the library. Books, games and Wal-Mart gift certificates are awarded to those who complete the "Challenge."

Huckleberry Finn Book Club, Carl Sandburg College

Adult learners will create a reading web — a learning tool that identifies elements in a story. They will read Huckleberry Finn and conduct research at local libraries and on the Internet on Mark Twain, Hannibal, Missouri or slavery. The project will improve a learners' reading abilities, lead them into research, increase their presentation and discussion skills and allow them to learn about local history.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois, August 2003 — 10.4M — GA 1010

To subscribe to *Illinois Literacy*, call 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576 (Illinois only), #1 then #3.

Produced by the Communications Department.

Cyndy Collett, Program Manager, Literacy Office.

Jean Wilkins, Director, Illinois State Library

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian

Illinois Literacy is a publication of the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office.

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian
Illinois State Library
300 S. Second
Springfield, IL 62701
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #93
Springfield, IL