

For Immediate Release:

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Jesse White Announces Spotlight Awards For Outstanding Literacy Students and Tutors

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is announcing the winners of the 2020 Spotlight on Literacy Awards, which recognizes participants in Illinois literacy programs. Ten students received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and 10 volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service Award. Due to restrictions involving the COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person ceremony was not held this year.

“I am honored to congratulate these outstanding students for their hard work and determination to achieve lifelong reading and learning skills,” said White. “Many of them have had to overcome great difficulties and personal obstacles to reach this level of achievement. I am also proud to recognize our outstanding volunteer tutors for their generosity and encouragement in helping literacy students achieve their highest potential.”

In FY2020, the Secretary of State and State Librarian awarded funding to 113 programs that supported adult, family and workplace literacy efforts statewide. These programs helped 10,162 adult students learn from 4,856 volunteer tutors.

Below is a list of award winners:

2020 Spotlight on Achievement

- **William Abel**, Township High School Dist. 214 in **Arlington Heights**
- **Seble Burton**, Lewis & Clark Community College in **Godfrey**
- **Doris Gooden**, Literacy Chicago in **Chicago**
- **Aqlima Haidar**, Howard Area Community Center in **Chicago**
- **Juana Martinez**, Universidad Popular in **Chicago**
- **Beatriz E. Navarro**, Erie Neighborhood House in **Chicago**
- **Maria Perucho**, Tolton Center/De La Salle Institute in **Chicago**
- **Sofia Suarez**, Corazon a Corazon in **Blue Island**
- **Ariel Vidalia Kelly Lynn Wilson**, Baby TALK in **Decatur**
- **Maria Wisniewski**, Literacy DuPage in **Glen Ellyn**

2020 Spotlight on Service

- **Jean Araujo**, Literacy Chicago in **Chicago**
- **Jan Corbett**, Corazon a Corazon in **Blue Island**
- **Shirley M. Dilley**, The Literacy Council in **Rockford**
- **Dorothea Duncan**, Black Hawk College in **East Moline**
- **Shawn Renee Finrock**, Parkland College in **Champaign**
- **Sue Jones**, Literacy DuPage in **Glen Ellyn**
- **Barbara Langfeld**, Literacy DuPage in **Glen Ellyn**
- **Mariela Rodriguez**, Howard Area Community Center in **Chicago**
- **Rosemary Shiels**, Corazon a Corazon in **Blue Island**
- **Mary V. Uhrick**, Oakton Community College in **Skokie**

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