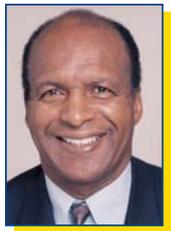


Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

In this issue of Illinois Literacy, I am pleased to share the successes realized in literacy programs around the state in fiscal year 2013. And I look forward to seeing all that will be accomplished in FY14 with the new literacy grants awarded this summer. Check out the list of projects that will be funded this fiscal year; identify your local literacy program and make a commitment to support that program in some way this year.



On Thursday, November 21, please encourage the adults in your program to spend some time with their children to celebrate Family Reading Night. In this issue are links to ideas on how families can spend quality time reading and learning together.

It is exciting to be part of a program that is making such a difference in the lives of Illinois citizens. Thank you for all you do to make this program successful.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

Secretary White awards \$5.7 million to literacy projects

Secretary of State Jesse White recently awarded more than \$5.7 million to 162 literacy projects in Illinois. These projects have 298 service locations in Cook County, including the city of Chicago, and 269 service locations outside Cook County. All but two Illinois counties have service locations provided by the 162 literacy projects. Following are descriptions of those awards along with personal success stories from literacy projects funded last year.

Adult Volunteer Literacy — \$3,958,767 awarded to 89 programs to provide training for volunteers who tutor adults over age 17 who read, write, compute or comprehend below the ninth-grade level or score below SPL 7 for speakers of other languages.

FY13 Success Story: Richland Community College, Decatur — To improve the lives of her and her daughter, Toni wanted to learn to read. She was ashamed that she could not read and had very low self-esteem. When she first met with the literacy staff, she made little eye contact and spoke so softly they could barely hear her. Toni was matched with a volunteer tutor at Project READ and has made great strides in learning to read. As a result, her life has changed. Toni now smiles and greets all the staff, and has started writing in a journal. Both Toni and her daughter can read and discuss books together. Her daughter is on the honor roll at school and Toni is very proud of her. Toni's grandson also lives with her and she makes sure she reads to him daily. She helped her grandson's caregiver with phonics so the caregiver could help her grandson and the other children in her care with their reading skills.

Toni was proud of herself when she was able to buy her own house. She did all the negotiating, secured a mortgage and completed the paperwork. "I never could have done it by myself if I couldn't read," said Toni. She now leads a Bible study at her church and has completed 30 hours of classroom training to become a volunteer for Casa, where she is an advocate for abused, neglected and dependent children. Her job as a home-care assistant also is much easier since she learned to read. Toni continues to improve and is a positive role model for others.

(continued on page 2)



Secretary of State Jesse White and Illinois State Library staffer Karen Egan promoted Family Reading Night at the Illinois State Fair in August. See page 3 for more information on Family Reading Night.

Penny Severns Family Literacy — \$1,494,374 awarded to 48 programs to provide parents and children — both individually and together — instructional services to enhance their basic reading, math, writing or language skills. Grants are awarded to partnerships that include an adult literacy provider, a public library and a child-at-risk organization.

FY13 Success Story: Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield — When Jesus Gomez began the family literacy program, he knew very little English. In the short time he attended ESL classes, he began to understand some English. As a father of two young children, he was able to ask questions on parenting. With his new English skills, he was ready to look for a job so he could support his family. This meant he would have to leave the literacy program temporarily. He found a job and returned to the literacy program to learn even more English. This time he brought his brother with him to the ESL class. Again, he had to temporarily drop out of class to do some emergency house repairs. He returned to the program a year and half ago and his attendance has been exemplary.

Jesus participates in all areas of the family literacy program, including library, parenting and PACT sessions. He encourages other students to be on time, to do their homework and be prepared for class. He also helps by translating for other students, reading aloud, moving equipment or keeping the tone upbeat in class.

Jesus is involved with the Immigration Reform movement and shares the information he learns with other members of his class. He is a leader among his classmates in attendance, participation and attitude, and his English continues to improve.

Workplace Skills Enhancement — \$296,763 awarded to 25 businesses and educational providers to offer



Toni from Project Read at Richland Community College reads with her grandson and daughter at the library.

employees onsite instructional services to enhance their basic reading, math, writing or language skills, maintain their employment and increase their eligibility for promotion. Grants are matched by the businesses at least one-to-one.

FY13 Success Story: Marsco Glass Products, Chicago; Educational Provider, University of Illinois BIS, Naperville — ESL teacher Presy Milas uses the two computer kiosks the company provided to incorporate software programs and websites into her curriculum. This has worked out even better than anticipated. Employees are more interested in attending class because they want the opportunity to work on the computer and to get more comfortable using a mouse and keyboard while improving their language skills.

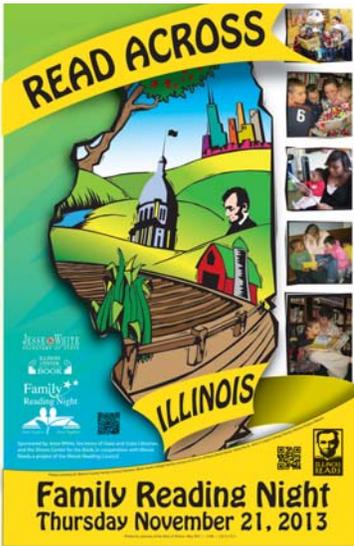
The training is held near the work area so employees will stop in the classroom on their breaks and work on assignments, turn in assignments and practice their English speaking skills with the instructor without feeling self-conscious. The training has saved the company money because the instructor also covers company information and

topics in her classes with employees at a slower, more in-depth pace.

Attending the ESL class at Marsco Glass helped one employee improve his language skills as well as his confidence. When he first started his job as a final inspector/packer, he barely spoke two words. Now he can have a conversation with the Human Resource director.



Jesus Gomez received a certificate of participation in the ESL classes at Lincoln Land Community College as part of the Penny Severns Family Literacy program.



Family Reading Night

One of the many exciting things about the Secretary of State's Family Reading Night, held annually the third Thursday of November, is that families across the state of Illinois take time to sit down together, pick up a book and spend quality time together bonding as a family over literature — with no television, no electronics — just family and books. This is a memory that the family can cherish for years to come and, hopefully, make a nightly or weekly tradition.

This year's Family Reading Night is Thursday, November 21, with the theme

"Read Across Illinois," which evolved out of a partnership with the Illinois Reading Council's Illinois Reads initiative. Visit the Illinois Reads website to see a list of 35 books featured in this initiative. The books are divided into six age categories, and the authors all have ties to Illinois or the books have an Illinois theme. Also check out the Secretary of State's Family Reading Night website for innovative ideas for FRN events.

Iroquois County Fair queen advocates for literacy

While studying at Kankakee Community College, Kymber Nakaerts was a tutor in the college's ALIVE literacy program. This summer Kymber was crowned Iroquois County Fair Queen. Her speech was about the critical issue of literacy in our country and the valuable lessons she learned as a volunteer tutor in the literacy program. She will use her literacy platform to compete at the Miss Illinois County Fair pageant in January.

Kymber graduated from Kankakee Community College in 2013 and is currently studying agricultural business at Illinois State University in Normal.



Iroquois County Fair Queen Kymber Nakaerts with former literacy students at Kankakee Community College.



*Memoriam to
volunteer tutor
Dan Dietrich*

*John Wood
Community College*

Dan Dietrich volunteered as a tutor at John Wood Community College in Quincy for 26 years. Julie Bates, manager of Literacy and Volunteer Services, nominated Dan for the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service individual award and he won!

Dan had a special interest in tutoring ESL adult learners. His passion for languages and different world cultures made him a perfect fit for this role. He spoke fluent Spanish and many of his teaching and tutoring methods were based on things he learned in his travels around the world. English "slang" is a real stumbling block for ESL students so Dan took special care to help his students understand English conversation.

One student Dan tutored had a reading ability below the second-grade level. The adult learner worked cleaning streets and removing snow. He couldn't read the work orders telling him which streets to clean so he carried large word cards with the street names on them. He would compare the cards with the street signs so he would know where to clean. The first item Dan worked with his student on was learning the city street names. An enthusiastic teacher, Dan was delighted when he made a difference by helping individuals overcome communication barriers.

Sadly, Dan died in a tragic accident in January and he will be greatly missed by the literacy program and his students. But Dan's legacy lives on in the adult learners he worked with. A memorial fund with the college's foundation has been established in his honor to benefit the literacy program. The college also plans to reach out to Dan's former students to see if they would like to help mentor or become ESL tutors. The techniques Dan used with his students will also be added to the training and workshops for current ESL tutors.



Unite for Literacy provides digital picture books

Unite for Literacy has launched its digital library of picture books at <http://uniteforliteracy.com> to provide “book abundance” for families everywhere who wish to promote literacy in their homes and schools. This free resource may be enjoyed on computers, tablets and most smartphones. The books were created for home use by parents and teachers of young children, as well as for ELL teachers and their students and ELL families with preschool children. Second language students also will enjoy the books.

The first books are 100 simple picture books for read-alouds and for the youngest and newest readers. Written in English and narrated on demand in English and 15 other languages, Unite for Literacy is reaching out to nearly 3 billion potential readers and their families. In collaboration with cultural institutions in the U.S., the organization is adding new books with rich content and new languages every month.

WWW



<http://brycs.org>

Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services offers an illustrated handbook for newcomer families parenting young children: *Raising Children in a New Country: Supporting Early Learning & Healthy Development*. The online book addresses subjects such as Family Well-Being; Safety and Protection; Guidance and Discipline; Healthy Brain Development; Early Learning and School Readiness; and Connecting to Early Care and Education.

www.pumarosa.com

A colorful, Spanish-supported ESL site for students at Levels 1-3. Each English audio segment begins slowly, is repeated at normal speed and then translated.

www.dailylit.com

Choose from 800 free titles of books to have emailed to you each week. Books vary in level of difficulty.

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Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Anne Craig, Director, Illinois State Library • Cyndy Colletti, Program Manager, Literacy Office

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ON THE HORIZON

October — Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 31–November 2 — U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy, Washington, D.C., www.proliteracy.org/uscal

November 5-8 — American Association for Adult and Continuing Education's Annual Conference, Lexington, KY, www.aaace.org

November 6-9 — International Dyslexia Association's Annual Conference, New Orleans, www.interdys.org

November 14-15 — 2nd Annual Central and Southern Illinois Regional Fall Conference, Effingham, www.cait.org/ciaesc/

November 21 — Family Reading Night: visit “Read Across Illinois” for more information.

November 22 — Adult Education Conference - Northern Region, Bloomington, www.thecenterweb.org/alrc

January 22-24 — 2014 Illinois Comprehensive Literacy & Reading Recovery Conference, Chicago, www.nl.edu/t4/readingrecoveryconference

February 17-19 — National Conference on Family Literacy, Washington, D.C., www.familit.org/conference

February 28-March 1 — IL TESOL-BE 40th Annual Convention, Lisle, www.itbe.org

More literacy event information is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Illinois State Library, Literacy, Calendar of Literacy Events).

ILLINOIS ADULT LEARNING HOTLINE

To locate a literacy program or volunteer as a tutor, call **800-321-9511**.

You also may register at

www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/hotline/index.html.