

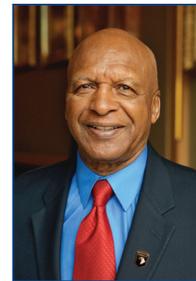
LITERACY

SUMMER
2019

ILLINOIS

Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

As a former educator, I understand the importance of teachers improving their knowledge and skills through continued education. I am proud to provide 10 literacy practitioners with the opportunity to learn new strategies for instructing adult learners and to network with peers from many communities during a conference in Springfield.



Libraries continue to be an integral part of communities in Illinois. The Illinois State Library's Literacy Office ensures that public libraries and literacy programs work together to meet the needs of low-literate adults. The benefits of these potential partnerships cannot be quantified in dollars and cents. Everyone benefits when these entities work together to overcome a very real problem that affects approximately 2.1 million Illinois residents.

This summer please take the opportunity to encourage families to participate in a summer reading program at their local public library. Also, it is not too early to start planning for Family Reading Night this fall. Please check out the poster for this year's event, which continues iREAD's summer theme of "It's Showtime at Your Library."

Enjoy your summer.

Jesse White

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Secretary of State & State Librarian

Public libraries and the Illinois State Library literacy effort



Secretary White distributes books to promote literacy and libraries.

Libraries have unparalleled potential in playing a major role in promoting local literacy efforts, as well as partnering with local literacy providers. Public libraries are a trusted community agency that can provide a safe, non-judgmental space for learning, in addition to resources for children, youth and adults of any reading level. Recently, the Secretary of State's Illinois State Library Literacy Office sought out information from Illinois public libraries concerning their involvement in and knowledge of the office's Adult Literacy Grant Program.

Each year, all Illinois public libraries are required to complete and submit the Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) and can also apply for the Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid grants. In 2018, the Literacy Office included survey questions in the IPLAR that focused on the literacy grant program. The Public Library Per Capita Grant application included a requirement for public libraries to review the literacy grant program, provide a description of the library's current or planned services to accommodate low-literate

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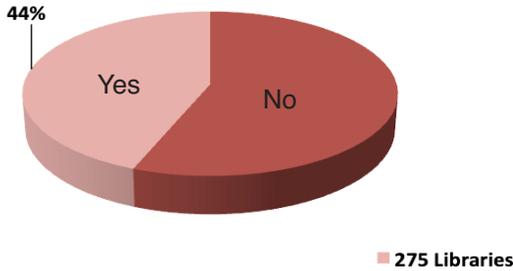
Public libraries and the Illinois State Library literacy effort - cont.

English speaking and/or English as a second language (ESL) patrons, and request a follow-up discussion by State Library staff. The goal of gathering this information was not only to measure involvement and knowledge, but also to try and encourage libraries to become involved in the literacy effort and increase their awareness of literacy providers in their service area.

IPLAR Results

Responses were received from 625 libraries and include some of the following results:

House a High/Low reading level collection

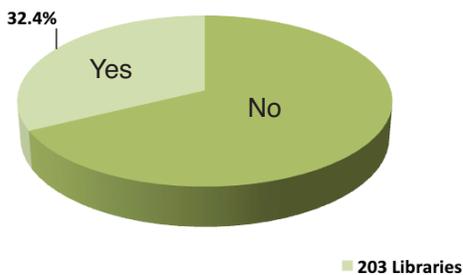


House a bilingual collection



It was established that 275 libraries house a high-interest, low-reading level collection and that 296 libraries have a bilingual collection. This indicates that there are a significant number of public libraries that have available resources that are appropriate for low-level readers, regardless of age or English-language ability, as well as materials for tutors to use with Adult Basic Education (ABE) and ESL learners.

Employ bilingual or multilingual staff



Additionally, the survey revealed that 203 public libraries employ bilingual staff, which is helpful making learners feel comfortable in accessing library services on their own. Removing the communication barrier can be pivotal in expanding library and literacy services into an isolated community of immigrants and non-native English speakers.

Provide family literacy programming



Impressively, 362 libraries reported providing family literacy programming. Although these programs may differ from the Illinois State Library Penny Severns Family Literacy Program model with its five components, this is a good indication that libraries recognize the benefit of multi-generational programming and would be amenable to partnering with a literacy program to provide literacy programs specifically designed for families.

Public Library per Capita Grant Results

Responses were received from 630 libraries, with 142 requesting a follow-up conversation from Literacy Office staff. In these conversations with libraries, the following was learned:

- A majority of the 142 libraries think of literacy as only ESL and did not equate literacy with low-literate, native English speakers.
- Many were not confident that there was a need for literacy in their areas and wanted help in identifying the need.

Literacy Office staff took the opportunity during these conversations to educate these libraries on the literacy need statewide and to provide tips for identifying individuals with literacy needs, as well as appropriate resources for assisting those individuals. Staff contacted local literacy programs within each library's service area to facilitate partnerships.

The results from both surveys indicate that statewide, libraries both large and small are eager to serve all patrons in their service area – regardless of the citizen's ability to read, write or speak English. Over 425 libraries are interested in doing more in their communities related to literacy including forming some sort of partnership with literacy agencies. The advantages of a partnership to provide literacy services are endless. The Illinois State Library's Literacy Office continues to work with both libraries and literacy providers to facilitate partnerships to ensure literacy services are easily available for those residents who are in need.

Information on the Illinois State Library's Adult Literacy Grant Program is available online at:

<https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/home.html> or by calling 800-665-5576, extension 3.

Scholarship winners attend IACEA Conference



(Front Row) Pictured are the 10 scholarship winners, listed in the story below, joined by Illinois State Library Literacy Office staff (Back Row).

The Illinois State Library's Literacy Office gave individuals who work for literacy programs the opportunity to apply for scholarships to attend the annual Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association (IACEA) conference held in Springfield. Ten scholarships were awarded and provided winners the opportunity to build professional development and to network with literacy practitioners from around the state. Applications for the scholarships were received from literacy programs statewide and covered a wide range of staff positions and organizations. Scholarships were awarded to the following individuals:

- Charlene Choi, Hanul Family Alliance, Chicago
- Barbara Dorris, Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey
- Cole Jacques, Albany Park Community Center, Chicago
- Jasbir Mann, Metropolitan Asian Family Services, Schaumburg
- Cindy La, Asian Human Services, Chicago
- Addie Placido, Urbana Adult Education, Urbana
- Katie Maranzana, Centro Romero, Chicago
- Patti Wragg, Kishwaukee College, Malta
- Katie Neginskiy, Heartland Human Care Services, Inc., Chicago
- Harry Kent, St. Joseph Services, Chicago

"Continuing education is such an important part of career development," said Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. "My office is proud to provide these individuals with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and incorporate what they learn into making their literacy programs stronger."

Some of the scholarship winners shared what attending the conference meant to them:

Cindy La – "IACEA was a great conference that gave me a chance to connect with providers from throughout the state. I found the session on technology to be very helpful, as it provided many tips for how to incorporate technology into the classroom. I immediately took that information and shared it with my staff to start implementing these ideas into our program."

Addie Placido – "I found it very helpful to hear ideas and feedback from

other programs about administering the TABE 11/12 student assessment test. I will be using the strategies I learned from others, in order to make it less overwhelming for students."

Katie Maranzana – "Two sessions stood out to me as really helpful. The first was the "Psychology of Scarcity" training. I knew the basics, but it was really good to explore in detail why students sometimes behave in certain ways and make questionable decisions. I plan to incorporate this information into our next teacher training to discuss possible interventions to help our students achieve success. The other session covered basic readers. I learned new strategies and skills that can be applied in the classroom."

Patti Wragg – "Each session I attended provided some nugget of information or strategy to bring back to my colleagues at Kishwaukee College. I plan to use what I learned at the conference as a resource for volunteers and implement ideas into our program for lessons and curriculum planning."

Katie Neginskiy – "I have been working on developing online courses, because we have such a demand for online ESL from students working multiple jobs, with childcare issues or with disabilities that prevent them from coming to class. I was having trouble figuring out a plan that would work for my staff, our students and our funders. Thanks to a session on this topic, I was able to figure out the missing pieces for the program that I have been envisioning."

Harry Kent – "Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the conference was being able to learn about the work of many different organizations that I had the opportunity to learn about and I got to meet their wonderful representatives. I am grateful for the chance to meet fellow program coordinators from Chicago and around the state of Illinois, as the value of the work was overwhelmingly affirmed by the stories and experiences that I heard about from the different types of programs represented at the conference."

The annual conference is held in early March and provides three days of continuing education opportunities for adult literacy practitioners. For more information on IACEA and future conferences, please visit its website at <https://www.iacea.net/>.



Night of 1,000 Stars celebrates its 24th anniversary

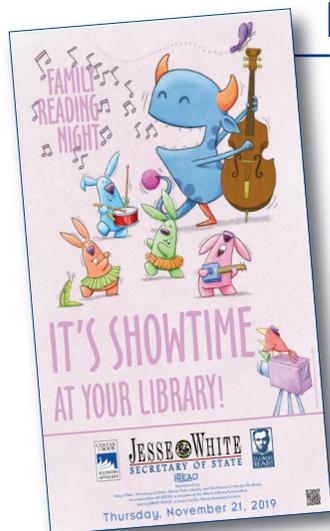


Adult learner Timothy Warren and his wife, LaTosha, at the Night of 1000 Stars.

Members of the literacy coalitions in Chicago gathered at the Harold Washington Library Center in May to celebrate the 24th annual Night of 1,000 Stars. The event brings members of the North Side, South Side and West Side literacy coalitions together for a night of celebrating adult learner and program achievements. The Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition (CCLC) coordinated the celebration. CCLC program director Dena Giacometti served as the emcee for the event.

The event included performances from adult learners representing Literacy Chicago, Indo American Center and Erie Neighborhood House. Featured performances consisted of a comedy skit, poetry recitals and personal testimonies from learners on their successes in adult education and learning English as a second language. The highlight of the evening was the inspiring words from 71-year-old Timothy Warren from the Tolton Center, who is currently working on completing his high school equivalency certificate. Warren expressed to everyone that age is only a number and that it is never too late to learn and improve your knowledge through education.

For more information on the literacy coalitions in the Chicago area as well as events and continuing education opportunities, visit the CCLC's website at <http://www.chicagocitywideliteracy.com/>.



Family Reading Night

The Illinois State Library's Illinois Center for the Book (ICB) and the Illinois Library Association (ILA) are once again partnering to continue the iREAD Summer Reading Program theme through Family Reading Night (FRN), the annual celebration of families reading together that is held on the third Thursday of November. Schools, libraries, and youth and literacy organizations across the state will host a variety of FRN programs on Thursday, Nov. 21, that highlight the "It's Showtime at Your Library" theme.

It is not too early to start planning your event for the fall. Posters and bookmarks will be mailed to literacy organizations, schools and public libraries in preparation for the event. Activity suggestions to help organizations plan for the event along with downloadable versions of the poster and bookmark are available at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/frn.html. FRN is sponsored by Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois State Library's ICB in cooperation with iREAD and Illinois Reads, a project of the Illinois Reading Council.

ON THE HORIZON

August 9 – Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration, Chicago, <http://www.icova.info>

September – National Literacy Month

September 8 – International Literacy Day, <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/meetings-events/international-literacy-day>

September 22-28 – National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, <https://national-coalition-literacy.org/adult-education-and-family-literacy-week/>

September 24-25 – Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support, Forum for Excellence, Normal, <https://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/forum-for-excellence>

October 3-4 – Illinois Reading Council Conference, Peoria, <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference.html>

October 10-13 – International Literacy Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/conference>

More literacy event information is available at: <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/home.html> (click Calendar of Literacy Events).

WWW



<https://www.ireadprogram.org>

The theme for this year's Illinois Library Association's iREAD summer reading program is "It's Showtime at Your Library." You can find a wealth of original graphics, activities, reading lists, and more for children, teens and adults.

<http://libguides.ala.org/summer-reading/>

The American Library Association provides a number of resources for literacy programs wanting to have learners and families participate in summer reading and summer reading activities.

<https://www.cslpreads.org>

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) is a consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials at the lowest cost possible for public libraries.

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**Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Director, Illinois State Library**

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