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A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

March/April
2013

INSIGHT

Aurora Public Library receives first library construction grant

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded a \$10.8 million Public Library Construction Act grant to the Aurora Public Library as part of a new state program designed to assist libraries undertaking major construction and remodeling projects.

"I have always believed that public libraries like the Aurora Public Library are cornerstones of our communities that all citizens can enjoy," said Secretary White during the announcement at the library in March. "They are the best and most reliable information resources available to citizens. Unfortunately, many libraries simply do not have or cannot raise all the financial resources necessary to construct new buildings or make essential improvements to existing facilities."

The entire \$10.8 million grant awarded to the Aurora Public Library will be applied to the \$28 million cost of a new 92,000-square-foot downtown facility.

The Public Library Construction Grant Program is part of a \$31 billion capital construction program approved in 2009 by the Governor and Illinois General Assembly. A total of \$50 million was appropriated for permanent capital improvements to public libraries and funded by the sale of state bonds. The amount of funding awarded to each library is only a percentage of the total cost of the project, determined by a mathematical formula provided in the legislation. Any remaining project costs are a local responsibility.

Construction grant applications were ranked based on the age of library buildings and the last time substantial work was completed on the facilities; the size of the library in relation to the population it serves; and whether life/safety issues are being addressed with the building improvements. Libraries will receive the funding only if local financing is arranged and approved by June 30, 2013.

"Together with funds generated locally, we are ensuring that these public libraries can continue to fulfill the important information needs of their patrons," said Secretary White. "I congratulate the Aurora Public Library on being the first library to receive a grant under this important new public library construction program."

Applications for FY14 Public Library Construction Act Grants are now being accepted. Although no funding is currently available for FY14 grants, the State Library is required by law (30 ILCS 767) to accept applications in the event funding becomes available through the legislature and Governor. Applications are available at <www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/publib_construction.html>. **The deadline for FY14 applications is April 15, 2013.**

For more information about the Public Library Construction Act Grant Program, please contact Mark Shaffer at 217-524-4901, mshaffer@ilsos.net; or Pat Boze at 217-782-1892, pboze@ilsos.net.



SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE awarded the first Public Library Construction Program Grant to the Aurora Public Library in March. Pictured with Secretary White is (left to right) state Rep. Stephanie Kifowit; state Sen. Linda Holmes; state Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia; John Savage, library board president; Eva Luckinbill, executive director of the library; and Tom Weisner, mayor of Aurora.

Secretary White awards \$1.4 million to school libraries

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded FY13 School District Library Program Grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million to 642 Illinois public school districts. About 1.7 million students served by school library media programs will benefit from the grants.

“As a former public school teacher and administrator, I know our school libraries are so important in helping students learn and prepare themselves for the future,” said Secretary White. “Several studies in recent years have shown that students perform better in the classroom in school districts that have strong library media programs. Illinois was the first state to implement a school district grant program, and I’m pleased that we can continue to provide school libraries with some of the financial resources they need to produce well-educated students.”

Grants were awarded based on a formula of \$.75 per student, with a minimum grant of \$735.50. The grants may be used for such things as library materials to support reading for academics and enjoyment, library subscriptions, electronic resources or improved technology to support student research. For a list of schools receiving grants, visit <www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/schoolpercapgrant.html>.



Illinois Reads kicks off

Secretary of State Jesse White, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon and the Illinois Reading Council (IRC) have formally launched Illinois Reads — the first-ever statewide literacy program spanning all generations.

“Illinois Reads is an exciting new program that encourages all Illinoisans to read books by authors who are connected to the state of Illinois,” said Secretary White who serves as honorary chair.

As part of Illinois Reads, which will culminate during Secretary White’s Family Reading Night on Thursday, November 21, classrooms, libraries, community groups and bookstores throughout the state will feature 35 books spanning six age groups. Books range from read-to books for infants to read-aloud books for home-bound seniors and everything in between. A list of the 35 titles is available at <www.illinoisreads.org>.

The eight-month Illinois Reads campaign will focus on reading at home and in the classroom for the remainder of the current school year and into next fall. The program also will emphasize summer reading as a way to not only bring the family closer together but also combat what is known as “summer learning loss” in children. Participants will take part in Family Literacy Nights throughout the state in November sponsored by their local IRC chapters.

The Illinois State Library, Illinois Press Association, Illinois Broadcasters Association, Rotary Clubs of Illinois, Floppets toys and independent bookstores throughout Illinois are all key IRC partners in the statewide Illinois Reads campaign.

State Library to award “Back to Books” grants

The Illinois State Library will soon be awarding “Back to Books” grants, a new collection-development grant offering. Academic, public, school and special libraries that are full members of the regional library systems are eligible to receive from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Purchases may include fiction and non-fiction books in a variety of formats, languages and reading levels, including large print and audio books, graphic novels, educational CDs or DVDs, and associated shipping and processing costs. For more information, visit <www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/backtobooks.html>.

OCLC update

The OCLC Group Services and FirstSearch contracts will be renewed for FY14 and FY15, a move recently endorsed by the Future of Resource Sharing Committee (FORSC) and the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC). Recent and emerging technologies that improve resource sharing and the overall online experience for library users will continue to be explored, as FORSC helps the State Library set the direction beyond FY15. A detailed background and explanation of OCLC Services in Illinois is available at <www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/OCLC/pdfs/oclc_srvcs_il.pdf>.

ILEAD USA participants

ILEAD USA, a yearlong program designed to help library staff understand and respond to user needs through the application of participatory technology tools and creation of an easy-to-replicate model program, kicked off in March at the University of Illinois Springfield.

For the first time, Illinois participants are being joined by participants from Colorado, Utah, Ohio and Iowa. The program was expanded this year as a result of a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant to the State Library from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The first ILEAD USA session was held March 25-28, to be followed by a June 17-20 session and a final session October 21-24. Sessions are held simultaneously in each participating state, with plenary sessions broadcast live on streaming video.

The State Library is pleased to announce the teams, instructors and mentors from Illinois:

Teams:

Beyond the Reference Desk

Barbara Alvarez, West Chicago Public Library District
Carol Hartmann, Waubesa Community College's LTA Program
Beatrice O'Connell, DeKalb Public Library
Dominique Roman, West Chicago Public Library District
Beth Teppen, United Township High School

Libraries 4 Jobs

Verna Austen, Berwyn Public Library
Lynn Bierma, Illinois State Library
Nancy Dolan, Quincy Public Library
Emily Kornak, Barrington Area Library
Taran Ley, Illinois State Library

School Librarians Are Essential to Student Achievement

Angie Green, Illini Bluffs School Dist. #327
Krystina Kelley, Belle Valley School Dist. #119
Pamela McDermott, Glen Crest Middle School, CCSD #89
Sia Paganis, Spring Wood Middle School
Christy Semende, Canton USD #66

STEM Linkers

Claire Crawford, Geneseo Public Library District
Annette Heintzman, Decatur Public School Dist. #61
Bradley Jones, Skokie Public Library
Katie LaMantia, Schaumburg Township District Library
Janet Piehl, Wilmette Public Library

Tangible, Hands-On Tech Habits Program

Brigitte Bell, University of Saint Francis
Shannon Pohrte, University of Saint Francis
Chris Sloan, Joliet Public Library
Gwen Thompson, Joliet Central High School Media Center

Team Amazing

Dorothy Hemmo, U of I Springfield
John Laubersheimer, U of I Springfield
Shannon Littleton, Pleasant Plains High School Library
Benjamin Nanamaker, Springfield's Lincoln Library
Susan Pennington, Springfield Southeast High School

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Illinois railroad maps on IDA

The State Library has added a new collection of 39 Illinois railroad maps to the Illinois Digital Archives at <www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16614coll7>. As a crossroads state that incorporates the city of Chicago and a terminus of industry going back to the 19th century, Illinois has always been a crucial link in the railroad industry. Both passengers and freight were moved in great numbers throughout our territory.

One of the most valuable collections held by the Illinois State Library is the collection of railroad maps showing the development of the state's rail system, from 1854 to the present. At one time many railroad companies crisscrossed the state, but as time passed lines gradually merged until only a few remained. These maps show when and where the companies existed and where their tracks went. Interurban electric rail passenger lines also are shown.

Illinois sets new Letters About Literature record

For the sixth year in a row, Illinois leads the nation in entries submitted by students for the national Letters About Literature contest. What makes this year particularly special is that for the first time Illinois has exceeded 6,000 entries.

Letters About Literature is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in cooperation with the Illinois Center for the Book. The program invites students in grades 4 through 10 to read a book of their choice, reflect on it and write a letter to the author explaining how the book changed their life or view of the world.

Illinois winners will be announced in April, with the top winners in each age group advancing to the national competition.

ILEAD USA participants

(continued from page 3)

The CPL 5

Kristen Edson, Chicago Public Library
Joshua Farnum, Chicago Public Library
Joan Levey, Chicago Public Library
Shenita Mack, Chicago Public Library
John Telli, Chicago Public Library

The Llama Project

Katy Hite, Roosevelt University Library
Amy Killebrew, Schaumburg Township District Library
Elizabeth Ludemann, Morton Grove Public Library
Allison Parker, Northlake Public Library District
Victoria Rakowski, Lisle Library District

The Maker Space Team

Ridgeway Burns, Glen Ellyn Public Library
Amber Creger, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Phyllis Davis, Matteson Public Library
Elizabeth Nicholson, Naperville Public Library
Ann Marie Scandura, Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library District

The Midwestern Athenians

Eileen Doyle, Illinois College Schewe Library
Jan Figa, Illinois College Schewe Library
Jake Magnuson, MacMurray College
Jenna Nurnberger, Jacksonville Public Library
Mike Westbrook, Illinois College Schewe Library

Instructors

Andrew Bullen, Illinois State Library
John Emerson, backspace.com
Alex Hoffman, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Mick Jacobsen, Skokie Public Library
Brian Pichman, Evolve Project
Rachel Fuller, Riverton High School Library
Sarah Sagmoen, University of Illinois Springfield
Lindsay Schmitt, Deerfield Public Library
Krista Schoellhorn, Waterloo High School
Beck Tench, Museum of Life and Science

Mentors

Sue Stroyan Anderson, Illinois Wesleyan University
Diana Brawley Sussman, Carbondale Public Library
Thomas Dorsf, Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois
Kathryn Harris, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Tina Hubert, Six Mile Regional Library District
Carlos Melian, Northeastern Illinois University
Kathy Parker, Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library District
Tammy Sayles, Western Illinois University Libraries
Mary Soucie, Three Rivers Public Library District

SAVE THE DATE

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April 11

Illinois State Library Advisory Committee
Illinois State Library

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April 14-20

National Library Week

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May 16

Spotlight Literacy Awards
Illinois State Library

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June 2-7

Small Public Library Management Institute
University of Illinois Springfield

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**The Illinois State Library will be closed
Monday, May 27, for the Memorial Day holiday.**



Insight
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