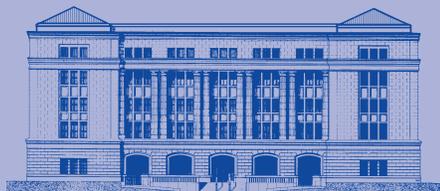


ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY DIVERSITY PROGRAM



Diversifying Diversity in Illinois Libraries

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JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State & State Librarian

The Illinois State Library's Diversity Program, a division of the Library Development Group, was created in 2003 to assist the Illinois library community in developing cultural and minority diversity initiatives. The Diversity Program staff works to:

- Explore the rich and varied history of the United States through library technology, online resources and programs.
- Train library staff in developing diversity competencies and principles for libraries.
- Partner with the Illinois library community in developing venues to serve the many faces of diversity through grant initiatives.
- Promote events and exhibits that commemorate heritage, multi-cultures and ethnic activities (i.e., Black History Month, Women's History Month, Dia de Muertos, etc.).
- Engage writers, speakers and Illinois artisans to share cultural expressions.
- Pioneer studies that examine services and access for the underserved and minorities.
- Provide workshops related to minority demographics.
- Attend educational forums that provide current information related to diversity in libraries.
- Employ a culturally diverse library workforce through a diversity recruitment and mentoring conference.
- Explore and share ethnic library services, benefits and best practices.
- Connect and encourage culturally diverse communities to use libraries.
- Offer information on scholastic grants and awards for minorities seeking library careers.
- Partner with minority and special-interest librarians to develop leaders in the library community.

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