



Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White reviews Project Next Generation progress at the Decatur Public Library.

***“Project Next Generation helps teach our kids how to use new technology by providing mentors who offer guidance, encouragement and friendship.”***

— Secretary of State Jesse White

Project Next Generation is hosted at public libraries throughout the state. To learn about student projects that have resulted from this initiative, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/PNG/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/PNG/home.html).

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***WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM***

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## **Comments from students:**

*“I have learned that computers are more than just fun; they can help you a lot in school.”*

*“I have a lot of fun here. I learn a lot about computers and many other things.”*

*“PNG is my connection to technology.”*

*“I feel more advanced than other kids at school now.”*

## **Comments from mentors:**

*“By working together we have had significant success.”*

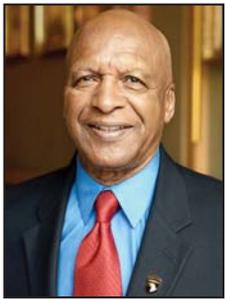
*“What I really like about Project Next Generation is being able to mentor the kids.”*

PROJECT NEXT GENERATION

IT'S ALL ABOUT  
**KIDS!**



**JESSE WHITE**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
AND STATE LIBRARIAN



# It's all about KIDS...

As a former school teacher and founder of the Jesse White Tumbling Team, I have had the privilege of working closely with young people for more than 55 years. Through these experiences, I have learned that children need mentors — older children and adults to serve as helpers, advisers and friends.

That's what Project Next Generation (PNG) is all about — today's heroes shaping tomorrow's leaders.

Today's youth face challenges unique to their generation. The use of technology has become a necessity for educational and professional success. Through Illinois public libraries, PNG helps teach our kids how to use new technology while providing mentors who offer guidance, encouragement and friendship.

I am confident that PNG will help equip our children with the necessary tools for lifelong success.

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Secretary of State & State Librarian



## Our Mission

To encourage greater success in all aspects of young people's lives, PNG aspires to enhance their technological skills to succeed now and in the future. By empowering students with this knowledge, Illinois libraries are bridging a traditional education with innovative resources to influence the next generation.

## Overview

PNG is the first statewide mentoring program to be administered through Illinois public libraries. Mentors work with middle and high school students at public libraries to develop technological skills and guide them as they explore life skills, such as effective communication, goal setting and conflict resolution.

## How it works

Participants at PNG sites across Illinois work with mentors who provide a mix of technological experiences and life skills to prepare for lifelong success. Students learn how to use computers, the internet, digital cameras and other technologies, while practicing problem-solving and communication skills. Each site has the flexibility to individualize its curriculum to meet the needs of its students.



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## Grants for public libraries

Secretary of State Jesse White annually awards grants to Illinois public libraries hosting PNG programs. PNG grants are funded using Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For grant information, visit: [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/PNG/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/PNG/home.html).

*...technology, mentoring and their futures.*