

# LITERACY

WINTER  
2015

# ILLINOIS

**Jesse White**  
Secretary of State  
& State Librarian

This issue of *Illinois Literacy* highlights the success stories of literacy programs from around the state in Fiscal Year 2014. These programs have a direct impact on the lives of so many, and I look forward to even more progress in the coming year. The Literacy Office awards scholarships for professional staff to attend the upcoming Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association Annual Conference in March, which provides the tools to help professionals deal with the ever-changing needs of today's students.



Finally, each year literacy programs recognize adult learners and volunteer tutors by nominating them for the Spotlight on Achievement and Service Awards. Take the time to nominate and recognize outstanding learners and tutors in your program. Best wishes for continued success in 2015.

*Jesse White*

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Secretary of State

## Changes at the State Library's Literacy Office

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and State Library Director Anne Craig are pleased to announce the promotion of Cyndy Colletti to the position of associate director for Grants and Programs, and the hiring of Kathy Dauksza as the new Literacy program manager, filling Ms. Colletti's previous position.

Cyndy has been with the State Library's Literacy Office since 1992 and has served as program manager for the last 13 years. Cyndy has overseen the awarding of more than \$88 million to literacy programs throughout the state, served on numerous committees and has been an advocate for adult education. In 2003, she received the President's Award by the Illinois Adult and Continuing Education Association in recognition of her personal and professional contributions to adult education in Illinois and was named "Partner of the Year" by Literacy Volunteers of America-Illinois, Inc. in 2012. As the new associate director for Grants and Programs, Cyndy will oversee state and federal grant programs administered by the State Library.

"I have loved my time working in the Literacy Office and have had the pleasure of managing a top-notch staff and establishing friendships with very special people involved in adult education throughout the state," said Colletti. "I am also very excited for the new challenges and responsibilities that lie ahead in my new position."



Cyndy Colletti, associate director of Grants and Programs (left) with Kathy Dauksza, new Literacy program manager (right).

Kathy comes to the State Library from William Rainey Harper College in Palatine where she worked as an adjunct librarian. She was instrumental in establishing a satellite library supporting adult and family literacy and has collaborated on multiple grant and community projects enhancing the use of web-based literacy programming. She also served as a grant reviewer for the State Library's Literacy Office. "I'm very excited to have the chance to work at the State Library and to carry on the legacy that Cyndy Colletti and her predecessors have established," said Dauksza. "I hope to continue enabling literacy programs in the state the opportunity to provide educational services to those in need."

## FY14 Literacy Program Statistics and Success Stories

Fiscal year 2014 final reports submitted by programs funded through the Illinois State Library Literacy Office revealed the following statistics:

### Adult Volunteer Literacy

- 18,675 – Adult learners served
- 39 – Average age of adult learner
- 49% – Adult learners studying English as a Second Language (ESL)
- 7,982 – Volunteers serving adult learners
- 49 – Average age of volunteer tutors
- 370,850 – Hours of tutoring instruction which would equate to \$8,930,053 of service according to the Independent Sector.

### Success Story: *Aquinas Literacy Center, Chicago*

In September of 2011, a man entered the Aquinas Literacy Center's ESL program hoping to receive instruction to help him with his language skills. Since that day, he has worked very diligently, receiving one-on-one tutoring for 90 minutes a week. He has participated in writing, job preparation and conversation classes. He has demonstrated a true ownership of the program, all while being the primary care taker of his children.

The learner quickly showed his leadership capabilities and became a role model for other students, leading by example and staying positive about the importance of learning English. He rallied students to take their English instruction seriously and invited them to join in supplemental learning. He often brought the message of learning and empowerment back to his community and was able to recruit students and tutors to the Aquinas Literacy Center. This past year, he took an active role by participating in an eight-hour training session for literacy instruction.

If that is not enough, this learner also serves as the student representative on the board of directors. In addition, he organized an informal conversation club for students to gather during the lunch hour to eat and talk in English, facilitating a welcoming and positive environment for often struggling, tired adults.

This year, he was in the most advanced level classes offered, scoring a 97 percent on his final book test. He was the recipient of a scholarship awarded to outstanding graduates and spoke at the Student Awards Celebration sharing his happiness by saying, "The knowledge that we have now is important because no one can take it away and we can share it with others. Now, we can help others, students, families and our community. Thank you, thank you, thank you Aquinas."

### Penny Severns Family Literacy

- 1,413 – Adult learners served
- 86% – Female adults
- 71% – Adult learners studying ESL
- 33 – Average age of adult learner
- 61% – Obtained a library card
- 1,926 – Children served
- 53% – Female children
- 4.9 – Average age of child

### Success Story: *Township High School District 214 Community Education, Arlington Heights*

A young married mother with two young sons, joined the family literacy program. This truly dedicated student, attended 65 out of a possible 68 classes offered, for a total of 162.5 hours of instruction. Her pre-test to post-test score on the BEST literacy test elevated from a SPL Level 4 to SPL Level 7, a High Beginning Level to a High Intermediate Level.

Her literacy achievement immediately helped her through a difficult situation. One day, her son had an accident while playing and was taken to the hospital for a broken finger. Her husband, who is fluent in English, was out of town so she had to handle the situation. This young mother was excited that during her time at the hospital, she never required the services of a translator. It was a huge accomplishment for her to get the care her son needed without any language roadblocks. She felt proud of being able to handle the situation completely and knows that her time in English class is what made it all possible.

This family literacy participant is excited to be able to talk to the families of her son's friends, which has aided in developing her son's friendships. She also is participating in a community garden and is joining in more school activities and events.

### Workplace Skills Enhancement

- 403 – Employees assessed and/or instructed
- 51% – Female
- 43 – Average age of employee
- 97% – Employees studied ESL
- 2,119 – Hours of instruction completed

### Success Story: *Carl Buddig and Company, South Holland; Educational Partner: South Suburban College, South Holland*

This Carl Buddig Company employee works as a quality control technician in the packaging department and must be able to effectively communicate to line operators and supervisors.



Secretary of State Jesse White joined Dennis DeRossett (right) of the Illinois Press Association in congratulating Dr. Carolyn Kampe on her 2014 Spotlight on Service Award last Spring.

## Spotlight Awards nomination forms available

Nominations for Spotlight on Achievement and Service Awards are available online at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/spotlight-awards.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/spotlight-awards.html), along with stories of past winners like Dr. Carolyn Kampe of Chicago Heights. The deadline to submit nomination forms is February 15.

The Spotlight Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of adult learners or families as well as outstanding contributions by adult volunteer tutors. This year's Spotlight Awards ceremony will be held at the State Library in Springfield on May 13. We encourage programs to submit nominations of both students and tutors who have made great strides and contributed to success. For more information, call the Literacy Office at 217-785-6921 or 1-800-665-5576, ext.3.

# WWW



<http://www.firstbook.org/>

First Book distributes millions of books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low-income families throughout the United States and Canada. First Book works through existing community programs, literacy efforts and schools to provide an ongoing supply of new books and reading materials at low or no cost.

<http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/sectech/factsheet/index.html>

The Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE), administers and coordinates programs that are related to adult education and literacy, career and technical education and community colleges. The website offers an excellent collection of fact sheets for adult basic and literacy education.

[http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Main_Page)

Launched by David Rosen, former director of the Adult Literacy Resource Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, the ALE Wiki is a community of practice with links to research for practitioners, researchers, learners and others.

## IACEA Conference Scholarships Awarded

For the second year in a row, the State Library's Literacy Office offered individuals who work for literacy programs funded by the Secretary of State the opportunity to apply for scholarships to attend the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association (IACEA) Conference held March 4-6 in Springfield. Each \$450 award covers the registration fees, lodging for two nights at the conference hotel and a one-year membership to both IACEA and the Commission on Adult Basic Education.

Applications for the scholarships were received from literacy programs across the state covering a wide range of staff positions. Scholarships were awarded to:

- Hannah Bonifacius, Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
- Angela Dunlap, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby
- Theresa Hale, Howard Area Community Center, Chicago
- Lesley Kartali, Anixter Center, Chicago
- Maureen Powelson, Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley, St. Charles

The conference provides literacy program staff professional development opportunities, as well as the chance to meet and network with fellow literacy practitioners from around the state.

## START THE NEW YEAR OUT RIGHT!

Volunteer to be a literacy tutor.  
You can make a difference in someone's life.  
Call the **Illinois Adult Learning Hotline**  
at **800-321-9511**  
to find a literacy program in your area.



The employee's participation in ESL training has made her more proficient in English and more comfortable talking through issues with her fellow employees. She is now able to train new hires because of her improvement. According to her supervisors, this allows the production floor to operate much more efficiently.

In another instance, packers on the night shift attended ESL training and have shown a measurable increase in their confidence and comfort level. In the past, these employees would rely heavily on fellow English speaking co-workers to translate. These employees are now using their new English skills regularly.

### Correctional Facilities

Offering literacy tutoring in correctional facilities opens the door to many educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals. For some inmates, it offers an opportunity to provide training to their fellow inmates. To participate in the program, participants must score below the ninth-grade level in reading, writing and math or speak English below the SPL 7 level.

- 12 local correctional facilities, nine state facilities and one federal facility provided literacy services
- 1,601 adult learners qualified and became students
- 333 inmates whose skills exceeded high school level became peer tutors
- 118 people from local communities tutored in correctional facilities
- 20 facilities received instructional materials and nine received support services from literacy programs funded by the Secretary of State
- Tutors provided adult basic education instruction to 23 correctional facilities and ESL instruction to nine correctional facilities

### Adult Literacy, Public Library Partnerships

Libraries in Illinois provide essential support for local literacy programs. In fiscal Year 2014, 387 public library agencies in Illinois participated in some way, offering sites for tutoring and recruitment and referral to literacy projects. The 447 library tutoring sites, which include not only the main library but also branch libraries, enable literacy programs to reach many learners conveniently near their homes. Literacy programs rely on libraries for the full array of library services, and many libraries are providing services to more than one literacy program.

# ON THE HORIZON

**January 29-30** – Annual Comprehensive Literacy and Reading Recovery Conference, Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, Chicago, [www.nl.edu/rrconf](http://www.nl.edu/rrconf)

**February** – National Heart Month

**February 18-21** – Learning Disabilities Association Annual International Conference, Hilton Chicago, Chicago, IL, [www.lदानatl.org](http://www.lदानatl.org)

**February 27-28** – Illinois TESOL Convention, Chicago Marriott Naperville, Naperville, IL, [www.itbe.org/convention.php](http://www.itbe.org/convention.php)

**March 3-6** – Illinois Head Start Conference, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL, [www.ilheadstart.org](http://www.ilheadstart.org)

**March 4-6** – Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association Conference, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, IL, [www.iacea.net](http://www.iacea.net)

**March 16-18** – Families Learning Summit and National Conference on Family Literacy, Houston, TX, [www.familieslearning.org](http://www.familieslearning.org)

**March 25-28** – TESOL Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, [www.tesol.org/convention2015](http://www.tesol.org/convention2015)

**April 12-18** – National Library Week, [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

**April 12-18** – National Volunteer Week, [www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)

**April 15-18** – National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Boston, MA, [www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org)

**April 17-18** – PTA State Convention, Peoria, IL, [www.illinoispta.org](http://www.illinoispta.org)

**April 18** – LVI On The Road to Literacy Conference, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL, [www.lvillinois.org](http://www.lvillinois.org)

**April 21-24** – Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference, Denver, Co, [www.coabe.org](http://www.coabe.org)

**More literacy event information is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click Departments, Illinois State Library, Literacy, Calendar of Literacy Events).**

*Illinois Literacy* is a publication of the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office.  
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