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

Spring  
**2014**

# INSIGHT

## Secretary White awards more construction grants

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White continues to travel throughout Illinois to distribute Public Library Construction Act Grant awards. The matching grants assist public libraries with major construction projects. Awards to date have included 15 projects for newly constructed buildings, four projects to remodel existing library buildings and two disaster-relief projects.

“Public libraries are the cornerstones of our communities,” said Secretary White. “The Public Library Construction Act Grant Program allows my office to allocate as much as \$50 million to libraries throughout Illinois. Together with funds generated locally, we are ensuring that these public libraries continue to fulfill the informational needs of their patrons. I commend the recipients on their efforts to obtain a grant through this important public library construction program.”

Glen Ellyn Public Library received a \$157,000 grant to replace and repair por-

tions of the library that were affected by flood damage last spring. The DeKalb Public Library (see page 2) received \$11 million for remodeling the current library and building an addition. The Sandwich District (see page 2) was awarded \$1.5 million for the construction of a new library.

The Public Library Construction Act Grant Program is part of a \$31 billion capital construction program approved in 2009 by the Governor and the General Assembly. A total of \$50 million was appropriated for permanent capital improvements to public libraries in FY13.



Joining Secretary White at a construction grant award ceremony at the Glen Ellyn Public Library were (left to right) library trustees Maryl Wesolowski, Gina Meyers and Bob McClow, state Rep. Sandra Pihos (R-Glen Ellyn), library Director Dawn Bussey and library trustee Randolph Sailor. The library received a \$157,470 grant to replace and repair portions of the library damaged by flooding last spring.

**National Library Week**  
**April 13-19**



## Secretary White encourages poets to enter Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that entry forms are available for the 10th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award.

"We created the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote creative writing and provide an outlet for recognizing new literary talent," said Secretary White. "Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I am looking forward to discovering talented new poets with this year's competition."

The competition is named in honor of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Kevin Stein, who succeeded Brooks as Illinois Poet Laureate.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2014. The award for first place is \$500, second place is \$300 and third place is \$100. Winning poems also will be submitted for possible publication in the *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO*, and *Quiddity* magazines and Poetic License Press publications. Winners will read their poems and receive their prizes at a ceremony later this year at the State Library in Springfield.

Forms and other information are available at [illinoiscenterforthebook.org](http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org). For more information, contact Illinois Center for the Book coordinator Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or [bmatheis@ilsos.net](mailto:bmatheis@ilsos.net).

## ILEAD U teams, mentors, instructors selected

Seven teams of Illinois library employees have been selected for ILEAD U — Illinois Libraries Explore, Apply and Discover: the 21st Century Technology Tools Institute — along with mentors and instructors who will facilitate the program. The primary goal of ILEAD U is to help library staff understand and respond to user needs through the application of participatory technology tools. This year, funding for ILEAD U is provided through the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library using federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

### • Chicago Public Library 5.2 Team

Kimberly Hagen  
Sarah Holtcamp  
Anthony E. Powers  
William Sumner  
Lynn White

### • FATE Team

Laura Antolin, Evanston Public Library  
Trisha Connolly, Washington Elementary School

Tracy Hubbard, Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies

Renee Neumeier, Evanston Public Library  
Kefira Philippe, Nichols Middle School

### • Hard Core Organizers for the Common Educator Team

Marcia Brandt, Herscher CUSD #2  
Rachele Esola, St. Patrick High School Library Media Center

Kathryn Hauser, Elgin High School  
Mary Jo Matousek, Meridian Middle School

Mindy Perry, Greenbrook Elementary School

### • I GED U Team

Annette Alvarado, Harper College & Northlake Public Library District

Caitlin Bergan, Harper College  
Kathryn E. Dauksza Dowd, Harper College

Chris Medjo-Me-Zengue, Indian Trails Public Library District

Anna Yackle, Indian Trails Public Library District

### • LIBRAS Team

Andrew Meyer, North Park University  
Caroline Sietmann, Dominican University

Aimee Walker, North Central College  
Amy Weidner, Benedictine University  
Julie Wsroblewski, Benedictine University

### • Techno-Whats Team

Heather Booth, Thomas Ford Memorial Public Library

Jacqueline Christen, Glenside Public Library District

Sharon Hrycewicz, Downers Grove Public Library

Michelle Kilty, Helen M. Plum Memorial Library

Kimberly Scott, Elmhurst Public Library

### • Tablet Team

Rachael Dabkey, LaGrange Public Library

Lynne Priest, Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Sheryl Siebert, Chenoa Public Library  
Salvador Vergara, Instituto Cervantes  
Shauna Masura, Skokie Public Library

### • ILEAD U Instructors

David Ackerman, Waterloo Community Unit School District

Terry Huttenlock, Wheaton College  
Josh Mike, Beebe Elementary

Brian Pichman, Evolve Project  
Sarah Sagmoen, U of I Springfield

Alyce Scott, University of San Jose  
Krista Schoellhorn, Waterloo High School

Beck Tench, Museum of Life & Science  
Brian Tober, Illinois State Library

### • Chair of Instructor Corps

Andrew Bullen, Illinois State Library

### • ILEAD U Mentors

Richard Darga, Chicago State University  
Anne Hughes, Glen Carbon Centennial Library

Anthony Lucarelli, Fountaindale Public Library

Donna Schaal, IHLS

Brian Smith, RAILS

Michael Sukowski, Chicago State University Academic Library

Catherine Yanikoski, Fountaindale Public Library



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## Illinois Edge Initiative Resource webpage

The State Library has announced a new webpage as a one-stop location for all the resources and answers to your questions concerning the new Edge Initiative. Learn about the Edge Initiative, how public libraries will benefit, the Edge benchmarks, toolkit and workbook, and view a listing of the 26 soft launch libraries in Illinois. The Edge Resource page at <[www.finditillinois.org/edge/Resource-Page.html](http://www.finditillinois.org/edge/Resource-Page.html)> provides resources to help you comply with FY15 Public Library Per Capita Grant technology requirements:

- At least one library staff member and at least one board member must attend an informational webinar or in-person session about The Edge Initiative. Information is forthcoming about webinars, in-person sessions and other tools.
- The library staff must claim the library's account at [www.libraryedge.org](http://www.libraryedge.org).
- The library staff must print and review *The Edge Assessment Workbook* at <[www.libraryedge.org/sites/default/files/Edge\\_Assessment\\_Workbook.pdf](http://www.libraryedge.org/sites/default/files/Edge_Assessment_Workbook.pdf)>.
- Although not an FY15 requirement, the library staff and board may complete The Edge Initiative assessment in FY15.

For more information, please contact Debra Aggertt at [daggertt@ilsos.net](mailto:daggertt@ilsos.net)

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## FY13-14 Illinois Public Library Annual Report released

The Illinois State Library has released the FY13-14 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) data collection tool using the LibPAS software for data collection.

To access the report using the LibPAS portal, you will need to know your library's Illinois State Library User Name and Password. If you need assistance, contact Becky Hunter at [bhunter1@ilsos.net](mailto:bhunter1@ilsos.net), 217-782-7849, or 800-665-5576, ext. 2. You also will need Adobe version 8.0 or higher for PDF printing.

As a reminder, **submitting a paper copy of your library's IPLAR to the Illinois State Library is no longer required.** The Certification page and paper copies of any additional applicable documentation will continue to be collected by the State Library. For a complete list of the IPLAR paper submission components, please refer to the [IPLAR Instructions](#).

For questions regarding content/subject matter and edit checks, contact Robert Jones at [rjones1@ilsos.net](mailto:rjones1@ilsos.net), 217-785-1168 or 800-665-5576, ext. 2. For questions about software and technology issues, contact the LibPAS Help Desk at 800-521-4930.

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## Public Library Construction Grants



Secretary of State Jesse White awarded the DeKalb Public Library a construction grant for \$11 million for remodeling the library and building an addition. Joining Secretary White at the grant award ceremony were (left to right) library board President Clark Neher (partially hidden), principal architect Don McKay, Michael Thomas, Frank Roberts, library Director Dee Coover, DeKalb Mayor John Rey, Bill Nicklas (partially hidden) and state Rep. Bob Pritchard (R-Hinckley).



The Sandwich District Library received a \$1.5 million grant for the construction of a new library building. With Secretary White at the award ceremony were (front, left to right) library board President Nancy Sanders, library Director Sarah Horn, RAILS Executive Director Dee Brennan, (back, left to right) state Rep. Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) and Sandwich Mayor Rick Olson.



# FY15 Per Capita, Equalization Aid Grant requirements

Following are requirements for fiscal year 2015 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid grants. For more information, please contact Mary Downing at [m Downing@ilsos.net](mailto:m Downing@ilsos.net) or Jeanne Urbanek at [jurbanek@ilsos.net](mailto:jurbanek@ilsos.net), 800-665-5576, opt. 2.

- **Standards Chapter Review**

The library staff and board must review and report on progress in meeting Chapter 7, "Collection Management and Resource Sharing," of *Serving Our Public 3.0: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries, 2014*.

- **Education and Training**

At least one member of the library staff must attend one instructional course from one of the library systems or the Illinois State Library.

- **Technology**

1) At least one member of the library staff and at least one board member must attend an informational webinar or in-person session about The Edge Initiative. Information is forthcoming about webinars, in-person sessions and other tools.

2) The library staff must claim the library's account at <http://www.libraryedge.org>.

3) The library staff must print and review *The Edge Assessment Workbook* at [http://www.libraryedge.org/sites/default/files/Edge\\_Assessment\\_Workbook.pdf](http://www.libraryedge.org/sites/default/files/Edge_Assessment_Workbook.pdf).

4) Although not an FY15 requirement, the library staff and board may complete The Edge Initiative assessment in FY2015.

- **Trustees**

All members of the library board must analyze the library's current budget to determine whether revenues and expenditures are sufficient. Based on information from the analysis and the library's FY14 Environmental Scan, describe the library's fiscal climate and needs for serving the community.

- **Additional requirement for libraries that did not apply for a Per Capita and Equalization Grant in FY14**

The library board and staff must complete an Environmental Scan of the community. Additional information on an Environmental Scan is available at [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc\\_equalization.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc_equalization.html).

- **Time Frame**

These requirements must be completed before the due date of the next application.

## Illinois receives MOE waiver

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has granted the Illinois State Library a waiver from the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement for federal fiscal year 2014. In Illinois, federal FY14 funding will be used in state FY15. The successful outcome of the waiver request means that FY14 federal LSTA funding the State Library receives to support libraries in Illinois **will not** see a reduction proportional to recent cuts to state funding for libraries.

Congress could still act to reduce federal funding to all libraries in FY14, but the IMLS decision to grant the State Library's request for the MOE waiver means there will be no reduction targeted specifically at Illinois' LSTA Grants to States Allotment.

This is the third consecutive year the State Library has requested and received a waiver from the MOE requirement, and the State Library is very appreciative of these favorable decisions from IMLS. LSTA funding supports State Library programs such as adult literacy projects, services for the visually impaired and grant programs to local libraries throughout the state. For more information, contact Karen Egan at [kegan@ilsos.net](mailto:kegan@ilsos.net).

## eRead Illinois

A grant provided by the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library will allow TBBS users access to *eRead Illinois*, a digital collection of electronic books. *eRead Illinois* features new releases and popular titles in adult, young adult and juvenile fiction and nonfiction that may not be available in the library's regular collection, including some in Spanish. Although not compatible with the NLS digital player, these books may be downloaded to a patron's mobile device, eBook tablet or Windows computer.

Every stage of *eRead Illinois* — from finding books, checking them out and reading them — is designed to be accessible for everyone, including those with visual disabilities. Text tools on eBooks allow the user to highlight words and adjust the font size and color scheme and may include text-to-speech or studio narration. The digital media and delivery software platforms are fully ADA-compliant and were developed in cooperation with the National Federation of the Blind to work with the leading screen-reader technologies and refreshable braille displays.

## State Library staff news

**Patricia Norris**, associate director at the State Library, has been named the thirty-second Illinois Library Luminary. Luminaries comprising the Illinois Library Association's roll of honor are individuals who have made a significant contribution to Illinois libraries and have been recognized by their peers.

**Kyle Peebles** has joined the Illinois State Library staff as the new Communication manager.

**Amy Joseph** has joined the TBBS circulation operation.

Reference assistant **Frances (Francie) LaCamera** retired in March following nearly 40 years of outstanding service with the State Library.



Insight  
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