Literacy Office welcomes new staff member
The Illinois State Library Literacy Office is happy to announce that Tom Huber (left) has joined our staff. Tom previously served on the State Library staff in various departments. We know his professional skills will serve him well in the new position. He will be taking on the responsibilities of general grant management. Join us in welcoming Tom.

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Saturday, October 25, 2014, has been named “Make a Difference Day” by the Points of Light organization and USA Weekend. Join millions of volunteers throughout the country and take this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in your community by volunteering at a local literacy program. Make a difference year-round by becoming a volunteer literacy tutor. Call the Illinois Adult Learning Hotline at 800-321-9511 to find a literacy program near you.

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March 16-18 — National Center for Families Learning Summit, Houston, TX, www.familieslearning.org

www.familieslearning.org
The National Center for Families Learning, formerly known as National Center for Family Literacy, since 1989, has helped millions of families make educational and economic progress with their family literacy programs.

http://getcaughtreading.org
Get Caught Reading is a nationwide campaign to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read.

http://free.com
Family Education Network encourages you to explore its online and mobile resources crafted specifically for kids, parents and teachers to encourage learning, growth and exploration.

ILLINOIS ADULT LEARNING HOTLINE
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In hopes of encouraging new learners to discover the joys of reading, last year my office developed the New Reader’s Book Club. The demand for these books was so great that more titles have been added to the collection. This issue showcases the entire collection.

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guage skills. Grants are awarded to
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FY14 Success Story: Universidad Popular, Chicago — Husband and
wife Jorge and Ana attend programs at 
Universidad Popular in Chicago — Ana 
and their daughters participate in the 
Families Learning to Teach reading pro-
gram while Jorge, who works during the 
day, attends evening English classes. 
This arrangement allows them to learn 
together while still having time for fami-
ly activities and the girls’ homework.

The result is a better understanding of 
the English language, being able to 
assist their children at school and other 
outside activities and allowing Jorge to 
communicate more effectively at work. 
For Ana, parenting skills workshops 
have helped her learn more about nutri-
tion and how to prepare healthier foods
at home. She also participates in digital 
literacy programs which have allowed 
her to help her children, especially 
with the trend toward computer-based 
school work. Every family member now 
has a library card and uses the public 
library on a regular basis, and for the 
first time, one of the daughters made 
the honor roll at school.

Workplace Skills Enhancement — $234,550 awarded to 21 business-
nesses and educational providers to offer 
employees onsite-instructional services 
to enhance their basic reading, math, 
writing or language skills, maintain 
their employment and increase their 
eligibility for promotion. Grants are 
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FY14 Success Story: Decatur Foundry, Inc. — Decatur 
Foundry, Incorporated (DFI), whose 
objective is to increase the education 
level of its employees, is a first time 
recipient of a Workplace Skills Enhance-
ment Grant. A leader in manufacturing 
iron castings that can weigh from 100 to 
15,000 pounds, DFI serves customers 
in the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

Partnering with Richland Community 
College, the company provides instruc-
tional opportunities to workers who can 
than take on more responsibilities and 
perform higher-level tasks with the 
opportunity for promotion. 

DFI employees were receptive to the 
opportunity, even attending classes in 
less than ideal conditions. These work-
ers have significantly improved their 
math and reading skills and many have 
the ability to continue with other train-
ing. There has been a positive end result 
with increased employee morale and 
confidence in their work. Two employees 
have received their GED, three are tran-
sitioning to higher level courses and 
another student has seen his adult chil-
dren begin post secondary education, 
motivated by their father’s class atten-
dance.

Adult New Reader Book Club Collections

In 2013, the Illinois State Library Literacy Office introduced its first nine Adult New Reader Book Club Collections. The office was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from libraries participating in the book clubs. The demand for 
these collections exceeded expectations. Based on the great response, additional titles have been added, including a second collection of the most pop-
ular titles that were first introduced in 2013.

Titles were selected based on reading level, topics that would allow for rich discussion, topics that appeal to a broad range of ethnicities and the ability to get adult learners excited about reading. The entire collection now 
includes 21 titles:

The Bario Kings by William Kowalski 
The House on Mango Street by Sandra 
Cisneros 
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by 
William Kamkwamba 
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Sandikids by Paul Fleishman 
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck 
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mation on the collections can be found at 
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book and the audience to whom each book would appeal. 

Each collection contains 20 copies of the book, a discussion leader’s guide and 
most titles contain an unabridged audio book. For more information con-
tact the Literacy Office at 217-785-6921.

Family Reading Night ideas

Once again Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Center for The Book in cooperation with the 
Illinois Reading Council are teaming up to present Family Reading Night. Held annually the third

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Here are a few suggestions:

• “I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For… Books!” — This is a great idea for a reading party. Children 
earn scoops of ice cream based on reading goals and at the end of the evening, everyone gets a sundae!

• “Tell Me About Your Favorite Song” — Adults and children write a short paragraph about their favorite 
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Bad, Not Baddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
Emanesque Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Three Little Words by Ashley Rhodes-Curtier
Abraham Lincoln: Photograph by Russell Freedman
Of Beetroots & Argonite by Mawi Asgedom
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The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore
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SECRETARY’S REPORT

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This past April, the man and his tutor spoke at the Annual Volunteer Tutor Appreciation Brunch. The tutor complimented him on his remarkable progress, telling the audience he was an intelligent person who never had the opportunity to learn. The student, in turn, complimented his tutor for changing his life, making it possible to happily live and work in the U.S. He was grateful that the tutor took the time to help him read, acquire math skills and assist in many other tasks that led him to become an independent and productive person.

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