ON THE HORIZON

WINTER 2015

FY14 Literacy Program Statistics (Continued from page 2)
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 SFL 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.

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.”

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.”
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 tutor

**Workplace Skills Enhancement**
- 403 – Employees assessed and/or instructed
- 51% – Female
- 43 – Average age of employee
- 97% – Employed served 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.

**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, along with stories of past winners like Dr. Carolyn Kanipe 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 217-785-8921 or 1-800-665-5576, ext. 3.

**First Book**
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 no or low cost.

**The Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE)**
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, Aixiriter Center, Chicago
- Maureen Powellson, 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.
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...
ON THE HORIZON

WINTER 2015

January 23–30 – Annual Comprehensive Literacy and Reading Recovery Conference, Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, Chicago, www.tesol.org/convention

February – National Heart Month


March 16–18 – Families Learning Summit and National Conference on Family Literacy, Houston, TX, www.familieslearning.org


April 12–18 – National Library Week, www.ala.org

April 12–18 – National Volunteer Week, www.pointsoflight.org


April 17–18 – PTA State Convention, Peoria, IL, www.ilippta.org

April 18 – LVI On The Road to Literacy Conference, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL, www.LVIillinois.org


More literacy event information is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Illinois State Library, Literacy, Calendar of Literacy Events).

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.”

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.”