

Illinois State Library

Jesse White • Secretary of State and State Librarian
Anne Craig, Director



This Week at the Illinois State Library

May 13, 2011

Congratulations Joe!

We're pleased to congratulate Joe Natale, Executive Assistant for Planning & Outreach, who is marking his 30th anniversary with the Office of the Secretary of State this week. Thanks for three decades of outstanding service Joe!

Business Package Deadline Monday, May 16

Thanks to a [Business and Libraries: Working Together](#) grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Illinois State Library will provide business packages to more than 60 Illinois public libraries. The value of each package totals nearly \$4,000, and includes laptops, multimedia projectors, camcorders, and software and training videos to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs in local communities. Public libraries must apply for the packages by NEXT MONDAY May 16. Complete the "Interest Indicator Survey" form posted [online](#).

For more information about Business and Libraries: Working Together, please contact Joe Natale at the Illinois State Library at jnatale@ilsos.net or 217-558-4185. (U.S. Small Business Administration funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.)

A Webinar was held May 4 to answer questions about

Links

- ▶ [Secretary of State](#)
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- ▶ [Libraries in the News](#)
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- ▶ [Illinois Center for the Book](#)

Questions?

Contact:

[Pat McGuckin](#)
Illinois State Library
(217) 558-4029



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this initiative and may be viewed at <http://isl.acrobat.com/p12681364/>.

Find-A-Book/2011 iREAD Summer Reading Program

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is proud to join Governor Pat Quinn and Christopher Koch, superintendent of the Illinois State Board of Education, in encouraging parents to check out a valuable Web site aimed at keeping children reading during the upcoming summer months when school is not in session.

The Find-a-Book Web site, www.lexile.com/findabook, has quick and easy access to a list of books that will match a child's reading level and interests, as well as the nearest libraries carrying each title.

The Find-a-Book site uses a student's reading score in Lexiles, a measure of reading ability and text difficulty derived from state standardized tests, including the ISAT. The Web site features a search option to access appropriate book choices based on grade level and comfort with typical reading materials at that grade level.

Research has shown the powerful impact of continued reading over the summer. One study found that children can lose up to 60 percent of their skills during a two-month vacation. Children who read during the summer months, however, can sustain their reading gains and are better prepared for learning when the school bell rings again in the fall.

Secretary White also encourages parents to talk with children about the fun and importance of summer reading and take them to the local public library. Librarians have useful information about Lexiles and other programs such as the iREAD program, a summer reading program offered through the Illinois Library Association (ILA).

The 2011 iREAD Summer Reading Program theme is ***A Midsummer Knight's Read***. Local library iREAD programming will include activities, games, art, reading lists and much more for children, teens and adults. Check it out at your local public library or go to the ILA iREAD Web site at <http://www.ila.org/iread/iread-summer-reading-program>.

Spotlight Literacy Award Winners

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois Press Association have announced the

winners of the annual Spotlight on Achievement and Spotlight on Service awards recognizing outstanding literacy students and volunteer tutors in Illinois. The awards were presented during a ceremony Wednesday at the State Library.

"I am honored and privileged to congratulate these outstanding students for their hard work and determination in seeking to enhance their reading and learning skills," said Secretary White. "Many of them have overcome tremendous personal difficulties and obstacles to reach this level of achievement. Theirs are stories of courage and amazing persistence, and everyone should be inspired by their success."

"I am also extremely proud to recognize our outstanding volunteer tutors for their generosity and encouragement in helping literacy students achieve their utmost potential. I firmly believe each of us should give something back to our neighbors and our communities, and these heroes who help improve the lives of their literacy students are a wonderful example of the positive impact that comes from volunteerism."

"The Illinois Press Association and Foundation are again honored to join Secretary White in celebrating the achievements of this year's Spotlight award honorees," said Dennis M. DeRossett, Executive Director of the Illinois Press Association. "These students have made a life-changing decision to boost their life's potential through improved learning skills. This could not be accomplished without dedicated tutors to guide them along the path of learning. Illinois newspapers are proud to be a part of this commitment to help people overcome the crippling effects of illiteracy."

Eleven adult students were honored for outstanding achievement in developing and improving their literacy skills:

- Willie Davis, De La Salle Tolton, Chicago
- Shellie Higley, Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon
- Mu Lei, Black Hawk College, Moline
- Mylan Nguyen, Township High School District 214 Community Education, Arlington Heights
- Hugo Romero, Literacy Volunteers DuPage, Naperville
- Eric Shenarult, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights
- Carla Terry, YWCA Adult Literacy, Pekin
- Candace Turnipseed, De La Salle Tolton, Chicago
- Lucia Virrueta, Instituto del Progreso Latino,

Chicago

- Edward Whitt, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Fairfield
- Charles Williams, The Literacy Council, Rockford

Each winner received a \$200 check from the Illinois Press Association Foundation and a plaque and personalized *Illinois Blue Book* from Secretary White.

Ten outstanding tutors were also honored for their contributions in helping literacy students reach their goals:

- Margaret "Marge" Cribben, a tutor at De La Salle/Tolton Center, Chicago
- Eunice Golden, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Fairfield
- Julie Hummert, Kaskaskia College, Centralia
- Janet King, The Literacy Council, Rockford
- Joe Levy, Anixter Center, Chicago
- Michael Murcia, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Chicago
- Reta Strecker, Congregation of St. Joseph School on Wheels, LaGrange Park
- Woody Turner, District 214 Community Education, Arlington Heights
- Dan Weakley, Literacy Volunteers of America Project U.P.W.A.R.D., Peoria
- Janet Wigodner, Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan

The ten winning tutors received a plaque and personalized *Illinois Blue Book* from Secretary White, and the Illinois Press Association Foundation donates \$200 to the literacy program where they serve as volunteer tutors.

Students and tutors are nominated from among the local providers who receive literacy grant funding from the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office. Last year adult literacy programs that received grant funding provided educational services to 21,838 adult students. Statewide, 8,540 volunteer tutors provided nearly 476, 000 hours of time to help students develop and enhance their reading, writing, math and language skills. Persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors are urged to contact the [Illinois Adult Learning Hotline](#) at 1-800-321-9511.

Letters About Literature Winners

Secretary White hosted a ceremony in his office in

Springfield Wednesday for students from Lincolnshire, Naperville and Bloomington who were named the Illinois winners of the 2011 Letters About Literature contest.

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion for students sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book in cooperation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and in partnership with Target.

Students in grades 4–12 read a book and write a personal letter to an author, explaining how the book changed their views of the world or themselves. Students may select authors, living or deceased, from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The Illinois Center for the Book appointed judges who selected the top essayists on three competition levels.

This year's winners are:

- Level I— Grades 4–6: **Conrad Oberhaus** of Lincolnshire, who wrote to author Daniel Defoe about his book, *Robinson Crusoe*. Conrad is in the 5th grade at Daniel J. Wright Jr. High School in Lincolnshire. Conrad was also selected as a National Honor award winner.
- Level II— Grades 7–8: **Naasir Haleem** of Naperville wrote to author Mark Pftzer about his book, *Within Reach*. Naasir is in the 7th grade at Jefferson Jr. High School in Naperville.
- Level III— Grades 9–12: **Stacie Cler** of Bloomington wrote to author Helen Siiteri about her book, *The Adventures of Nicholas*. Stacie is a Senior at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington.

Read the winning essays at <http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projects/projectse.html>.

"These three talented young readers were among 6,700 Illinois students who took part in this year's contest," said Secretary White. "For the fourth year in a row Illinois had more entries than any state in the nation. I am extremely proud of all of the students who took part, because they are developing a lifelong love of reading and learning."

Letters About Literature awards prizes on both the state and national levels. Each of the three state winners received a \$50 Target gift card, a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond from the Illinois Center for the Book and a plaque and personalized *Illinois Blue Book* from Secretary White.

As a National Honor winner in his age group, Conrad also received a \$100 Target gift card, and a \$1,000 Letters About Literature Reading Promotion Grant was awarded in his name by Target to Daniel J. Wright Jr. High School Library. The library will also receive a \$100 check from the Illinois Center for the Book to honor Conrad's national recognition.

Project Compass Workshops

We've told you before about Project Compass, an initiative spreading across the nation to bolster library-based services to the unemployed and programs to guide the struggling workforce and respond to communities impacted by difficult economic times. Library staff is learning how to offer very practical approaches to help build strong, economically stable communities. Project Compass is offering one-day workshops throughout Illinois to help library staff implement programs in local communities. Workshops run from **9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** (with lunch included) at the following locations:

- Bourbonnais Public Library, May 18
- Cherry Valley Public Library District, May 20
- Lewis and Clark Library System, June 3
- Bensenville Public Library, June 10
- Taylorville Public Library, June 20
- Carthage, Carl Sandburg College, July 13

To register for a workshop please e-mail Bill Erbes at Bensenville Community Public Library at projectcompass@benlib.org and indicate your name, library and the date or location you would like to attend. For more information, please contact Bill or log on to <http://il.webjunction.org/project-compass>.

Project Compass is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to WebJunction/OCLC and the State Library of North Carolina.

GovDocInfo

Want to know if the food products you consume are from Illinois? Check out the Illinois Department of Agriculture's comprehensive [Food and Agribusiness Guide](#). Companies listed in the guide produce, process, package or are headquartered in Illinois.

Literacy Spotlight

This week we spotlight [John Wood Community College](#) in Quincy. After being physically attacked and shot, this adult learner tried unsuccessfully to earn her GED many times. Leg and brain injuries left her with learning disabilities and mental illness. In spite of being homeless and estranged from her entire family, she pursued GED classes at John Wood Community College. She was matched with a volunteer tutor and they developed plans to meet her short and long range goals. Even though she realizes it is going to take a while to achieve her goal of a GED, she continues to work with her tutor. She has excellent attendance and is working hard to overcome her many learning obstacles. After one year, she is close to realizing her goal and finally has hope that her life is changing in a positive way.

Cultural Awareness: Diversity in Action

[American Indians in Chicago: Our Legacies, Our Communities](#) will be presented **May 25th at 7 p.m.** at Worth Park District. This lecture and PowerPoint presentation addresses the little-known history of early Native American presence in the Chicago region at the city's founding. Scott Stevens examines Indian land cessions and removal and considers the continued presence of an urban Indian population throughout the 19th century up to the present. Learn about Native American leaders and reformers such as Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Simon Pokagon, and the later American Indian civil rights movement in Chicago. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, view the [Event Details online](#).

Illinois Digital Archives

One of America's most popular vacation spots is the Grand Canyon, and IDA has a large collection of lovely historic photos and other information about the Grand Canyon [online](#).

We Want Names!

E-News from the ISL is the best way to find out what's happening at the Illinois State Library. *E-News* is where you will learn *first* about grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other news you need to know. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving *E-News*, send their e-mail address to Pat McGuckin at pmcguckin@ilsos.net with the subject line SIGN THEM UP!

Upcoming Events

May 16 Deadline to submit Interest Indicator Survey for SBA grants

May 17 Springfield State Agency Librarians meeting, ISL

June 13–16 ILEAD U, University of Illinois Springfield

June 30 Deadline to enter Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

September 29–30 Reaching Forward South conference, Springfield
<http://www.reachingforwardsouth.org>

For more information about E-News from the ISL, please e-mail Pat McGuckin at pmcguckin@ilsos.net or call 217-558-4029.