



Jesse White announces spotlight awards for outstanding literacy students and tutors

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SPRINGFIELD - Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White honored the winners of the 2018 Spotlight on Literacy Awards, which recognizes participants in Illinois literacy programs. Ten students received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and ten volunteer tutors received the Spotlight on Service Award during a ceremony at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

“I am honored to congratulate these outstanding students for their hard work and determination to attain lifelong reading and learning skills,” said White. “Many of them have had to overcome great difficulties and personal obstacles to reach this level of achievement. I am also proud to recognize our outstanding volunteer tutors for their generosity and encouragement in helping literacy students achieve their utmost potential.”

This year, 89 programs are supporting adult, family and workplace literacy efforts statewide. Last year, with 48 literacy programs statewide, 5,941 adult students were served by 3,278 volunteer tutors.

Below is a list of award winners:

2018 Spotlight on Achievement

- **Jaqueline Aparicio and Darwin Amaya**, YWCA in **Pekin**
- **Deborah A. Buckner**, Baby TALK through Richland Community College in **Decatur**
- **Gil Rogelio Arce Urisquieta**, Literacy Chicago in **Chicago**
- **Eugene Street**, The Literacy Council in **Rockford**
- **Michelle Hernandez**, Howard Area Community Center in **Chicago**

- **Martha Reyes**, Joliet Junior College in **Joliet**
- **Adriana Zarate**, PODER Learning Center in **Chicago**
- **Lourdes Castelan**, Literacy DuPage in **Naperville**
- **Ruben Vega**, Morton College in **Cicero**
- **Maria G. Bazan Guillen**, Corazon a Corazon in **Blue Island**

2018 Spotlight on Service

- **David Allen**, Lewis & Clark Community College in **Godfrey**
- **Phil Hjemboe**, The Literacy Council in **Rockford**
- **John Ostergren**, Oakton Community College in **Skokie**
- **Kate Adams**, Chinese Mutual Aid Association in **Chicago**
- **Marlene Delaney**, Township High School District 214 in **Arlington Heights**
- **Shelly Hanson**, Hana Center in **Chicago**
- **Marlene Greenberg**, Township High School District 214 in **Arlington Heights**
- **Sarah Poontong**, South-East Asia Center in **Chicago**
- **Edward Schultz**, Howard Area Community Center in **Chicago**
- **Marti Vandervest**, Oakton Community College in **Skokie**