

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Jesse White Announces Spotlight Awards For Outstanding Adult Learners and Volunteer Tutors**

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced the winners of the 2022 Spotlight on Literacy Awards that recognize participants in Illinois literacy programs. Ten adult learners received the Spotlight on Achievement Award and 10 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 adult learners for their hard work and determination in obtaining lifelong reading and learning skills,” said White. “Many of them have had to overcome great difficulties and obstacles to reach this level of achievement. I am also proud to recognize our outstanding volunteer tutors for their commitment to helping adult learners achieve their highest potential.”

The Illinois State Library’s Literacy Office assists the Secretary of State and State Librarian in annually awarding grants totaling over \$5.6 million in support of adult, family and workplace literacy programs throughout the state. This year, 108 programs are in operation serving all regions of Illinois. During fiscal year 2021, literacy programs served 6,901 adult learners, including 689 children. Additionally, 3,258 volunteers served as adult tutors.

Below is a list of award winners:

2022 Spotlight on Achievement

- **Roy Blake**, Literacy DuPage in **Glen Ellyn**
- **Zyera Burton**, Baby TALK in **Decatur**
- **Krystil Clemons**, Literacy Chicago in **Chicago**
- **Efrain F. Gaspar**, Parkland College in **Champaign**
- **David Hernandez**, Regional Office of Education #17 in **Bloomington**
- **Milton James**, Southwestern Illinois College in **Belleville**
- **Vivian Kaldas**, C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation in **Effingham**
- **Pulcherie Kongoue Koffi**, Lincoln Land Community College in **Springfield**
- **Rakibul Islam Selim**, The Literacy Council in **Rockford**
- **Douglas Webb**, Parkland College in **Champaign**

2022 Spotlight on Service

- **Terese Cleary**, Corazon a Corazon in **Blue Island**
- **Ami Falk**, Prairie State Community College in **Chicago Heights**
- **Dietrich Freigang**, Oakton Community College in **Skokie**
- **Betty Hurder**, Literacy Chicago in **Chicago**
- **Carol Johnston**, Howard Area Community Center in **Chicago**
- **Mary Jane Jurek**, Corazon a Corazon in **Blue Island**
- **Robert Kirby**, Parkland College in **Champaign**
- **Diane Roman**, The Literacy Council in **Rockford**
- **Elizabeth Stefanski**, Literacy DuPage in **Glen Ellyn**
- **Heidi Wareham**, Lincoln Land Community College in **Springfield**