



JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State & State Librarian
Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building
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ilsos.gov

Illinois State Library

SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Presented by the Illinois Secretary of State/State Librarian Jesse White

Nomination Information

1. An adult literacy or ESL learner or family may be nominated by anyone who has worked closely with the adult learner or family during the previous calendar year Jan.-Dec.
2. Nominate a learner who has made significant and measurable strides in learning, has overcome challenges that might have stopped someone else or whose story is particularly inspiring. All nominees will be considered. Call the Literacy Office with questions.
3. Persons cannot win the Spotlight on Achievement Award more than once. A previous nominee may be renominated if they are still in the nominator's literacy program and still meets the criteria for reading level.
4. The adult learner must be testing below ninth grade/EFL5 and be age 17 or older when beginning the literacy program. The ESL learner must be below the Mainstream English Language Training (MELT) level of 7 student performance level (SPL)/EFL6 when beginning the literacy program.
5. One agency may nominate multiple adult learners.
6. All forms must be completed in English.
7. The top Illinois adult learners or families will be selected by a panel of literacy advocates. Winners are chosen on the basis of their stories as presented through nomination materials.
8. Spotlight on Achievement Award winners will be notified in early spring and recognized at an event at the Illinois State Library in Springfield at a later date where they will receive a plaque of achievement. Sponsoring literacy agencies will receive \$550 per winner to cover travel expenses to and from the event. Remaining award funds must be used to support the literacy project at the sponsoring agency.
9. Once the awards have been made, a release will be provided by the Illinois State Library Literacy Office to the winner that must be signed and returned. This will allow the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library and community publications to use the winner's name, picture and story relating to the Spotlight on Achievement Awards.
10. **PLEASE EMAIL THE NOMINATION FORMS NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 21 to literacy@ilsos.gov.**

If the deadline falls on a weekend or state holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next business day.

For additional information, please call the Literacy Office at
217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576, #3, or literacy@ilsos.gov.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Nomination

PLEASE TYPE

ADULT LEARNER OR FAMILY NOMINEE:

TITLE (e.g., Mr., Ms., Mrs., etc.) _____

FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZIP CODE + 4 _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL OF NOMINEE _____

LENGTH OF TIME NOMINEE HAS BEEN A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT _____

AGENCY NAME:

CONTROL AND BRANCH # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZIP CODE + 4 _____

TELEPHONE _____

PROGRAM CONTACT PERSON _____

EMAIL _____

NAME OF NOMINATOR:

RELATIONSHIP TO NOMINEE _____

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BASIC SKILLS LEVEL OF ADULT LEARNER:

At entrance into program: _____

Present level: _____

Formal education level
attained by adult nominee: _____

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Adult Learner Nomination Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINATOR

PLEASE TYPE

Clearly describe the nominee's life changes, obstacles and reason for being nominated. More than one sentence will be necessary. (Limit response to this page and one (1) attached page.)

NAME OF NOMINATOR: _____

NAME OF ADULT LEARNER
OR FAMILY BEING NOMINATED: _____

LIFE CHANGES: Describe any major changes that have occurred in the adult learner's or family's life through a gain in basic skills. These might include a new job, wage increase, promotion, improved family life, withdrawal from public assistance or achievement of personal goals.

OBSTACLES: Describe learning setbacks or obstacles overcome by adult learner or family to participate in literacy program.

REASONS ADULT LEARNER OR FAMILY DESERVES NOMINATION:

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The following narrative is to be **TYPED BY THE ADULT LEARNER OR MEMBER OF FAMILY BEING NOMINATED.**

If it is necessary for a tutor or nominator to write this exercise, please briefly state the reason and use the adult learner's own words. Describe how improvement in your reading level has enriched your life in the following suggested areas: family, job, church, community or other areas. Be sure your story is as clear as possible so judges may know exactly how your life has improved or changed. More than one sentence is necessary.

(Limit response to this page and one (1) attached page.)

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

IF OTHER THAN NOMINEE WRITING
NARRATIVE, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME: _____