

Barack Obama Library Award

Dear Illinois Reading Council Member,

Do you know a teacher of 5th-8th-grade kids who could make good use of a classroom library? The Illinois Reading Council is honored to invite you to submit a nomination for the Barack Obama Library Award. **This award is a classroom library, valued at over \$1000**, which was created in 2006 through a generous gift to the Illinois Reading Council from (then) Senator Obama. This collection is **comprised of carefully selected literature that is “culturally relevant” for African-American readers and targets students in the middle-school (5th-8th) grade range.** This year there will be two awards. One will be awarded to a teacher in or near Rockford, and one library will go to a teacher in the Cahokia area. Would you please help us identify a worthy recipients?

You are especially qualified to make a nomination because:

- **You teach or reside in or near Rockford or Cahokia, Illinois,** and
 - You are a member in good standing of the Illinois Reading Council.
- You do not need to be a teacher of middle-grade students to make this nomination, **AND self-nominations are permitted and encouraged.** However, IRC members may nominate only one teacher per year.

By completing a nomination you will be

- serving the Illinois Reading Council,
- helping a Rockford teacher bring culturally relevant literature to his or her students, and
- assisting the IRC in responding to Senator Obama’s challenge to “get more kids reading.”

Submit a nomination by completing the enclosed form by November 1, 2011. If you have any questions about eligibility, the award, or how to complete the nomination, please call Lou Ferroli at w-815-226-4182, h-815-636-1619 or e-mail lferroli@rockford.edu.

Thank you in advance for helping the Illinois Reading Council with this Obama Library award. Together we are doing something important for Illinois teachers and their young readers.



Lou Ferroli
Chair, Obama Literacy Fund Committee

Members of the committee:

Boomer Crotty, Will County Reading Council
Mary Grom, Lake Area Reading Council
Barb Mazzolini, Secondary Reading League
Margie Neal Fayemiwo, Chicago Area Reading Association
Alfred Tatum, University of Illinois at Chicago
Kim Winter, Lewis and Clark Reading Council

*of the Illinois Reading Council and
co-sponsored by the Illinois Council for
Affective Reading Education (ICARE)*

*The 2007 inaugural award
went to Sharon Dodds of
Peoria who used her
classroom library to bring
great adolescent literature
to her 8th-grade students.*

*The 2008 library was awarded to
Cindy Morgan who teaches 5th-
grade students at Lynne Thigpen
Elementary School in Joliet.*

*Melissa Beckler won the 2009
library. She teaches 6th-8th
graders at Washington Middle
School in Springfield.*

*The 2010 library was awarded to
the 5th Grade Team, Joni Hatfield,
Joe Howell, and Tom Anderson,
from Nicholson Elementary School
in Aurora.*

*The 2011 library was awarded to
Shanna Creech from Kolmar
School in Crestwood, Illinois*

*The Mission of the Illinois
Reading Council is to
provide support and
leadership to educators as
they promote and teach
lifelong literacy. Reaching
and inspiring all children to
read is the living legacy of
highly committed reading
teachers throughout the state
of Illinois.*

2012 Barack Obama Library Award
Nomination (Application) Form

Nominator: _____ Title/Position: _____

Affiliation: _____

Relation to nominee: _____

How might the Obama Literacy Fund Committee contact you?

Name of Teacher Nominee:

(Self-nominations are permitted and encouraged)

Teaching position:

School name and location:

How can this person (you) be contacted by the committee?

Please tell us about the nominee's (your) career teaching positions.

On a separate sheet or the back of this form, please describe how the nominee (you) meet(s) the intention of the award. In doing so, specifically address each bulleted items below.

It is the Illinois Reading Council's intention to make this award to a teacher who:

- makes especially good use of a classroom library, ideally through teaching procedures that permit self-selection,
- is positioned to make use of literature which is culturally relevant to 5th-8th grade African American students, and
- by history and job circumstances, is likely to use the library with the target population for a number of years to come.

Note: Finalist(s) will be visited to confirm above criteria.

Submit application by November 1, 2011 to:

Lou Ferroli, Rockford College, 5050 East State, Rockford, IL 61108

Electronic submissions are acceptable also. Submit to lferroli@rockford.edu.