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## 2020 BARACK OBAMA LIBRARY AWARD

Do you know a teacher of 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students 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 \$1000, which was created in 2006 through a generous gift to the Illinois Reading Council from (then) Senator Obama. He granted a generous gift to the Illinois Reading Council to support teachers with this award and continues to contribute annually. This collection is comprised of carefully selected literature that is culturally relevant for readers of color and targets students in the middle-school (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) grade range. Would you please help us identify a worthy recipient?

**You** are especially qualified to make a nomination if:

- You teach or reside in **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 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 nomination form by **March 1, 2020**. If you have any questions about eligibility, the award, or how to complete the nomination, please call Julie Hoffman at 815-878-6186 or e-mail [prayingaround@sbcglobal.net](mailto:prayingaround@sbcglobal.net).

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.

### Past recipient:

2007 - Sharon Dodds, *Peoria High School, Peoria*  
2008 - Cindy Morgan, *Lynne Thigpen Elementary, Joliet*  
2009 - Melissa Beckler, *Washington MS, Springfield*  
2010 - 5th Grade Team, *Nicholson Elementary, Aurora*  
2011 - Shanna Creech, *Kolmar School, Crestwood*  
2012 - Amy Orvis, *Montessori School, Rockford*  
Christine Keller, *Centerville Elementary, Cahokia*  
2013 - Stephanie Solbrig, *Lewis School, Carbondale*  
2014 (Spring) - Nicole Moss, *Franklin Middle School, Champaign*  
2014 (Fall) - Ericka Brown, *Moos Elementary, Chicago*  
2015 - Maureen Daley, *James Hart School, Homewood*  
2016 - Meghan Tippy-King, *Whiteside Middle School, Belleville*  
2017 - Merijha Branson, Tisha Neeley, and Tami Robertson,  
*Mary W. French STEM Academy, Decatur*  
2018 - Dana Hendricks, *Hamilton Junior High School, Hamilton*  
2019 - Margo Ransom, *Strasburg Elementary School, Strasburg*

### Members of the committee:

Julie Hoffman, *Chair*  
Stephanie Benson, *Region 1*  
Mary Grom, *Region 2*  
Joyce Jeewek, *Region 3*  
Stacie Niffen, *Region 4*  
Linda Robinson, *Region 5*  
Cindy Wilson, *Region 6*  
Susan Cisna, *Region 7*  
Cheryl Walker, *Region 8*  
Gabe Herbst, *Region 9*  
Patricia Tylka, *Region 10*

**2020 Barack Obama Library Award**  
***Nomination (Application) Form***

IRC Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's IRC Membership Number/Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

IRC Council: \_\_\_\_\_

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, describe how the nominee (you) meet(s) the intention of the award. Please address in some detail

- how the students this nominee teaches match the target population,
- how this nominee makes especially good use of a classroom library, ideally through teaching procedures that permit self-selection,
- how the nominee is positioned to make use of literature which is culturally relevant to 5th-8th grade African American students, and
- and how this nominee 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 March 1, 2020 to:**

Illinois Reading Council, Attn: Obama Award, 203 Landmark Drive, Suite B, Normal, IL 61761

Electronic submissions are acceptable also. Submit to [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)