

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Angie Jacobsen
Director of Communications
614-410-8092
ajacobsen@olc.org

COLUMBUS—The Ohio Library Council (OLC) continues its tradition of honoring the best and brightest individuals and organizations in the Ohio public library community. The 2016 honorees have demonstrated outstanding leadership and remarkable dedication to providing the best possible library service. They will be recognized at the Awards and Honors Luncheon on Sept. 28 at the OLC Convention and Expo in Sandusky, Ohio. The following recipients were selected based on a comprehensive set of criteria and nominations from the public library community.

Ohio Friends of the Library Recognition Award: Friends of the Washington-Centerville Public Library

In just five short years, the Friends of Washington-Centerville Public Library group has grown to more than 200 members and raised more than \$100,000 for library projects. This dedicated group of volunteers provides crucial support for the library's summer reading program, facility and grounds improvements as well as technology purchases. Book sales make up the core of their fundraising efforts, but what sets this group apart is their ability to partner with local organizations and businesses to raise money in unique ways. From wine tastings to 5K races, they have raised much needed funds and also expanded the library's visibility in the area. Their ongoing support and promotion of the library is a model of what a Friends group can accomplish with a clear mission and a vision that reaches out into the community.

Hall of Fame Librarian: Clyde S. Scoles, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Clyde S. Scoles has served libraries in Ohio for nearly half a century. Since 1985, he has been the director of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library where he has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of the community. Throughout his career, Scoles has shown a commitment to collaboration and innovation. He has led the library's partnership with many organizations throughout Lucas County including programs to revitalize downtown Toledo and to promote early literacy. Scoles has embraced technology evidenced by investing in a number of digital initiatives including the library's mobile technology center (one of only a few in the nation) that provides free Internet access and computer training to low-income neighborhoods.

Library Innovation Award: Stark County District Library

The Stark County District Library's BikeSmart program broke new ground in library services by offering its cardholders free access to bicycles. Many communities have bike-share programs, but this was the first time a library has partnered with a national company (Zagster) and local parks and recreation departments to have a significant impact on the community. By lending bikes for transit and fun, the Stark County District Library opened up access to transportation and helped improve the overall health of the community. In addition, BikeSmart expanded the value of having a library card for existing patrons and encouraged others to sign up. The program offered a refreshing view of what a library can provide to the community.

John Philip Outreach Award: Delaware County District Library

The Delaware County District Library's Community and Family Outreach Department supports 17 different services to the community including programs for prison inmates, senior citizens, hospital patients and other residents who cannot use the library in a traditional way. Whether it is providing new parents with board books or giving seniors access to memory kits, the Delaware County District Library is dedicated to bringing library programs and services to the isolated and underserved members of the community. The library partners with other organizations such as the YMCA, United Way and the Alzheimer's Association to ensure that everyone in Delaware County can benefit from the library's resources.

Diana Vescelius Award: Sarah Clevidence, Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

From a 16-year-old page to her position as Assistant Director, Sarah Clevidence has shown incredible dedication to the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library, the profession and the community. She is an up and coming leader and an excellent example of modern librarianship. Clevidence was instrumental in revitalizing Hancock County's struggling adult literacy program. Under her direction, the Read for L.I.F.E program has doubled in size. This enthusiasm for literacy is also shown in her commitment to CommunityREAD, a local program that brings popular, nationally-recognized authors to the Findlay area. Clevidence is also a leader within the library profession. As a member of the OLC's Library Education Committee, she played an integral role in outlining the core competencies for today's library staff and helped develop the Ohio certification program for librarians and library staff members.

Trustee of the Year: Benjamin Chinni, Euclid Public Library

Described as the trustee every board wants, Benjamin Chinni has taken on many challenges during his 21 years on the Euclid Public Library's Board of Trustees. He has guided the library through numerous staffing, building, financial and technological changes with the overall goal of making the library the focal point of the community. Chinni spearheaded many infrastructure enhancements and upgrades which have positively impacted the library's technology and early literacy initiatives. His efforts and advice on technological and intellectual freedom issues have benefitted libraries across the state. He is also responsible for the mobilization of the library's Outreach Department, determined to make the library's resources available to all members of the community.

Supportive Staff Member of the Year: Martin J. Flynn, Avon Lake Public Library

Site Manager since 2002, Marty Flynn is a one-person department responsible for maintaining the building and grounds of the Avon Lake Public Library. He is a highly-skilled and dedicated employee whose behind-the-scenes work is crucial to the smooth operation of the library. Whether it's service contracts or soap for the bathrooms, Flynn will always research the best price and product. He recently transitioned the library over to LED lighting which reduced the library's electric usage by 25 percent. Flynn also has a wonderful working relationship with the staff and is never too busy to lend a hand. In addition to his mechanical and technical skills, he has an outstanding commitment to providing the best possible experience for library patrons.

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The Ohio Library Council is the statewide professional association which represents the interests of Ohio's 251 public library systems, their trustees, Friends, and staffs.