

# Happy 80th Birthday, Delaware Library Association!

Dover, DE – The Delaware Library Association (DLA) is celebrating 80 years of supporting Delaware and Delaware libraries. DLA champions the role that libraries play as vital community anchors for literacy, education, connection, economic development, and lifelong learning.

Christine Payne, DLA President and 2013 School Librarian of the Year stated, “The Delaware Library Association is 80 years young! This is very exciting time to be in libraries and we are thrilled to be celebrating 80 strong years of advocating for all types of libraries in Delaware. Thank you to all members, past and present, who have shown such a strong commitment to Delawareans and thank you to our future members who will dedicate their time and efforts to continuing this extremely important work.”

In addition to advocacy and professional development initiatives, DLA also honors librarians and library supporters at their annual conference. Many previous DLA award recipients are still actively supporting libraries today:

- Governor Jack Markell (Distinguished Service Citation, 2006) has already supported over \$25 million for public library construction;
- Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock (Distinguished Service Citation, 2010) supports full funding for public library technology and infrastructure improvements enabling statewide public library Wi-Fi and high-speed broadband connectivity;
- State Librarian Dr. Annie Norman (Distinguished Librarian Citation, 2011) established the statewide Delaware Library Catalog which enables the sharing of over 2.5 million items among more than 50 multitype

libraries;

- University of Delaware Associate University Librarian Dr. Sandra Millard (Distinguished Librarian Citation, 2002) established UDLib/SEARCH, the online periodical collection for all K-12 public school libraries;
- And many more! The complete list of award recipients may be found at:  
<http://www2.lib.udel.edu/dla/scholarship/recipients.htm>

“All Delaware libraries are committed to the vision of progressive libraries and the transformational impact they have on the people who use them,” said Dr. Norman. “Delaware libraries help individuals and communities unleash their potential and achieve the Delaware Dream.”

DLA is proud to partner with a variety of organizations, including the Delaware Division of Libraries, Friends of Delaware Libraries, and local Friends groups to further their mission. DLA thanks libraries and library advocates for their unwavering support through the years, and thanks all Delawareans for their use and support of Delaware libraries. Delaware librarians and library supporters will be celebrating National Library Week April 13 – 19 and will be visiting Legislative Hall for DLA Legislative Day on Tuesday, April 29.

#### About the Delaware Library Association

The Delaware Library Association is a chapter of the American Library Association, and its mission is to promote the profession of librarianship, to advocate for library services, and to provide information and services for Delawareans. DLA is the only statewide association that represents all types of libraries including academic, public, school, and special libraries. Connect with DLA:  
<https://www.facebook.com/DelawareLibraryAssociation>

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