Robert P. Doyle Award was presented at Reaching Forward 2014.

Karen Roth, the library assistant at Lincoln Elementary School, Ottawa, IL was selected as the 2014 Robert P. Doyle Award winner. The Robert P. Doyle Award is named in honor of Bob Doyle, Executive Director of Illinois Library Association. This award provides a one year membership in the Illinois Library Association as well as a paid ILA conference registration and expenses up to $800.00.

An excerpt from Karen’s nomination... “I have worked in an elementary school library for close to twenty years. When I first began working in the school library, books were checked out by students who wrote their names on book cards, only kindergarten classes were read to, and encyclopedias were the main go-to source for research. Now we have a computerized checkout system and I read aloud to preschool through 4th grade classes every week...

Lincoln Elementary School principal, Ryan Lemberg, wrote in her support, “Mrs. Karen Roth epitomizes what it means to be an elementary school librarian. She is passionate about her craft, exudes a love of reading, and continually seeks to improve through reflection and adjustments ... She has developed, coordinated, and taught an Abraham Lincoln afterschool 4th grade program, “Thinking about Lincoln” which culminates in a scheduled trip to Springfield each spring. She is a dynamic and exceptional leader, colleague... and friend.”

Karen had this to say about her experience; ”Thank you so much for honoring me with the Robert Doyle Award. I am grateful for this wonderful opportunity to connect with and meet other library people who also love books and reading. I look forward to all the opportunities this recognition will afford in the coming year!”