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Association**

Press Release

Patrice Johnson, Librarian II, First Assistant at the Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center, is the recipient of the 2015 Illinois Library Association Alexander J. Skrzypek Award. The award is given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library services for the blind or physically disabled in Illinois. The award is sponsored by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service.

Patrice has worked diligently and tirelessly to develop exciting, innovative programs and deliver exemplary library service for the patrons in Chicago and throughout Illinois. Her statewide Summer and Winter reading programs have been a major hit, and are eagerly anticipated by all Illinois Talking Book library patrons. Statewide, she chaired the monthly "Book Break" program for readers' advisors in Illinois, and eventually across the country. The monthly programs featured popular authors, interactive discussions on various genres, and hot topics in readers' advisory work.

Patrice has been active in the Illinois Library Association and the American Library Association (ALA) for a number of years; and has often presented programs at state and national events on topics related to talking books. Nationally, Patrice is active in the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division of the ALA.

She has also served as a Secretary of the Midlands Libraries' regional meetings and a member of the 2015 National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) Tri-Regional Conference Planning Committee. She is a member of the Illinois Library Association Reaching Forward Conference Planning Committee; participated on the Keystone Library Automation System (KLAS) Users' Conference 2013 and 2014 Program Committees as well as in earlier years. Patrice has served as an exhibitor for the Illinois Network of Talking Book and Braille Libraries at the Governor's Conference on Aging in Chicago for a number of years; and she has assisted with Illinois Network of Talking Book and Braille Libraries at the Governor's Conference on Aging in Chicago and Training in Springfield, IL. Patrice Johnson has been a major influence on the quality of readers' advisory service in Illinois Talking Books.

The Alexander J. Skrzypek Award will be presented at the Awards Gala held on Friday evening, October 23rd, during the 2015 Illinois Library Conference in Peoria.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release