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Press Release

Ann Ford, Executive Director of the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL), is the recipient of the 2016 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.

As director of INCIL, a statewide association representing the 22 Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Illinois, Ford has spearheaded the charge of all 22 centers to promote awareness and expand usage of the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS). She has spoken at many libraries in Illinois to advocate for disability rights and spread awareness. She is a firm believer that community involvement is an important priority for libraries.

Additionally, Ford addressed a group of 90+ librarians and autism services providers at the 2016 Targeting Autism Forum at the Illinois State Library to extend her message of advocacy to include “hidden” disabilities.

The Alexander J. Skrzypek Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon held on Tuesday, October 18th, during the 2016 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Rosemont.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release