

Erwin Zolt Digital Literacy Game Changer Award

Margaret Hawkins, professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was awarded the ILA Erwin Zolt Digital Literacy Game Changer Award.

Throughout Hawkins's career, she has followed her passion for literacy. Her early work focused on languages, literacies, and learning in classrooms and schools, while striving for equity and social justice. As her career flourished, she became involved in teacher education initiatives at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and worked on the ground with schools and universities in many less developed countries to improve literacy instruction, create and sustain libraries in schools and communities, and provide professional development to teachers.

Her project, Global StoryBridges, has sites in underresourced communities in 17 countries across Asia, Central America, North America, Africa, and Europe. The program supports youth to develop technology, language, and literacy skills while sharing their lives and communities with other youth across the globe.

"I would like to see Global StoryBridges continue to expand, along with the newly formed international research team we have assembled," Hawkins says. "I'm hoping that we can come to understand how youth from different languages and cultural backgrounds, living in disparate regions and communities, make sense of messages that travel between them, and thus of one another."

Future educators should not forget to focus on global issues and citizenship, Hawkins says. Although educators cannot fix the world, they can keep social justice as the foundation on which they design their environment and practice and make decisions.

"It's so easy to become immersed in the day-to-day routines and demands, and yet our students need to become citizens of the world," Hawkins says. "It enhances their futures and it offers an excellent lens for understanding themselves and others."



Maryann Manning Special Service Award

Tilka Jamnik, head and national coordinator of activities at Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship in Slovenia, is the recipient of the Maryann Manning Special Service Award, which honors an individual who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to exceptional and distinguished service in the field of literacy.

Jamnik has loved books ever since her mother read to her at a young age. Today, her work is motivated by every child who needs a fairy tale, students who are eager to read, and anyone who has literacy needs. Most of all, she loves sharing her enjoyment of reading with others.

"To promote family literacy and intergenerational reading, I do workshops in Slovenia and among Slovene people in other countries," Jamnik says. "Younger generations can teach elder individuals modern literacy skills and elders can show younger generations what a joy it is to read books."

In addition to running workshops, she has founded the Slovenian Library and Museum MEGA quiz, strengthened cooperation with teachers of Slovene language and culture around the world, and was awarded the Matija Čop Award, the highest library recognition in Slovenia.



Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Grant

Every day, **Kelly Palomeque**, first-grade teacher at Riverside Elementary School in Fond du Lac, WI, is motivated by her students. Whether helping them grow as readers, writers, or individuals, she's inspired to learn more and work harder to help them succeed.

As most students are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch, Palomeque's goal for her literacy project is to get "just right" books into the hands of first graders to read and reread at home. Riverside Elementary implemented Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT) meetings, which allow teachers like Palomeque to build relationships with families and teach them how they can work on a learning goal at home.

"Research has shown that reading just 20 minutes a day is equivalent to gaining an additional 3,600 minutes of a school year, which is equal to 60 extra school days," Palomeque says.

"Research has also shown that by reading 20 minutes a day, a child's vocabulary can grow to 1,800,000 words a year."

Thankful for the Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Grant, Palomeque looks forward to increasing the number of independent texts her students have available to read as she continues to promote reading growth and instill a love of reading.

