



Urban Libraries Council

Strengthening the Public Library as an Essential Part of Urban Life

Media Contact:
Colleen Bragiel
312-676-0995

Urban Libraries Council Awards Innovators and Transformers

July 13, 2010 (Chicago) -- The Urban Libraries Council (ULC), a member organization of North America's leading public library systems, recognized several of its members as top innovators at the 2010 ULC Annual Conference held in Washington, D.C. The intent of the Innovations Initiative, a first year program spearheaded by ULC, is to capture and showcase creative programs ULC member libraries have developed and implemented to enhance operations as well as better serve the community.

The ULC Innovations Initiative illustrates the important role public libraries serve for the unemployed and entrepreneurs, teens building their work skills, newly diagnosed cancer patients and individuals struggling to fully participate in life by mastering the most critical and essential skill – the ability to read.

“The over 200 programs that are chronicled in this year’s initiative are a treasure trove of leading practices that public libraries can learn from and replicate. My ULC colleagues, across North America, exemplify all that is best in public service – a dedication to continuously enhancing operations and programs helping to assure that individuals and families in our cities, counties, and towns have access to knowledge and the civic resources they need,” said Raymond Santiago, Director of Miami-Dade Public Library System and Immediate Past Chair of ULC.

The following member programs were recognized as ULC's 2010 Top Innovations. Their national recognition in 12 categories covers both meeting external community needs as well as internal operations to further enhance service delivery.

- Brooklyn Public Library - Education
- Calgary Public Library - Public Safety
- San Francisco Public Library - Sustainability
- Johnson County Library - Economic and Workforce Development
- Queens Library - Health Services
- Hartford Public Library - Civic and Community Engagement
- Orange County Library System - Technology
- King County Library System - Raising the Image
- Houston Public Library - Operations
- Cleveland Public Library - The Organization
- Cuyahoga County Public Library - User Experience
- Columbus Metropolitan Library - Collections

“We are delighted to recognize the top innovators and are pleased to make all of the innovative submissions available on the ULC website. There are remarkable, creative programs that can be duplicated by other library systems. ULC created the Innovations Initiative as a means to showcase the excellent work of library systems across North America,” said Susan Benton, ULC President and CEO.

About the Urban Libraries Council

Since 1971, ULC has worked to strengthen public libraries as an essential part of urban life. A member organization of North America's leading public library systems, ULC serves as a forum for research widely recognized and used by public and private sector leaders. Its members are thought leaders dedicated to leadership, innovation and the continuous transformation of libraries to meet community needs.

As ULC approaches its forty year anniversary, its work focuses on assisting public libraries identify and utilize skills and strategies that match the challenges of the 21st Century.

To learn more about the ULC, visit: www.urbanlibraries.org

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