



NCLIS

U.S. National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

NCLIS Announces Finalists for 2006 Health Information Awards

Washington, DC USA March 27, 2006—The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) today announced the ten finalists for the 2006 NCLIS Health Information Awards for Libraries. The awards are designed to encourage library programs that address one or more of the following: dietary choices; exercise; smoking cessation; alcohol and/or drug abuse prevention or cessation; immunizations and health screenings; and improved health literacy, that is, the ability to understand and make use of health information. State winners were selected in each state, and from those, a panel of NCLIS Commissioners selected the ten finalists:

California. Pacific College of Oriental Medicine Library—Designed to promote healthy lifestyles by teaching access to reliable, accurate and authoritative health information and to improve home health care by providing sources for patient education information, the program uses the unique East-West Integrative Medicine approach to utilize both scopes of medical knowledge.

Connecticut. Healthnet—For more than 20 years, the Connecticut Consumer Health Network, an outreach program of the Lyman Maynard Stowe Library, University of Connecticut Health Center, has enabled citizens to access high quality, authoritative consumer health information directly through local public libraries.

Idaho. Get Real, Get Fit!—With state statistics showing that one out of every five Idahoans is obese, the Portneuf District Library in Chubbuck targets its multigenerational and multi-ethnic audience for quality fitness programs for adolescents and their families.

Kentucky. Olive Hill Adult Learning Center/Library—Located in a very rural area of the state, the library is totally staffed by volunteers (the county is the only county in the state of Kentucky without a tax-supported library). Its program supports the education of the teen population in the area.

Massachusetts. Access to Community Health Resources (ARCH)—Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital (the health sciences library of Massachusetts General Hospital) created this new model for health information delivery for four poor, urban and underserved communities. The goal is to provide access, especially electronic access, to quality health

information to help people living and working in the communities make more informed health decisions.

Minnesota. Minnesota Prevention Resource Center (MPRC)—Making resources about alcohol, tobacco and other drug use problems available throughout the state, MPRC has provided information, training, and technical assistance through its library and clearinghouse since 1981. The emphasis is on building the capacity of prevention practitioners at the county and local community levels.

Mississippi. Consumer Health Education Center (CHEC)—A program of the Rowland Medical Library, University of Mississippi Medical Center, CHEC seeks to reduce the effects of inadequate health information associated with health disparities and to improve the knowledge of health issues associated with health literacy among all members of the community.

South Carolina. REACH 2010—The Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition’s Library Partnership expands Internet access at five community sites and trains people to use high quality diabetes information through libraries and the Internet. REACH 2010 seeks to eliminate disparities for more than 12,000 African Americans diagnosed with diabetes by improving self-management and care.

Tennessee. Health Information Center (HIC)—Recognizing Memphis as “an unhealthy city,” the Memphis Public Library’s Health Information Center serves as the central resource for health information. HIC is now identified as the recognized community asset for empowering Memphis citizens to improve their health.

Virginia. Community Outreach Information Network (COIN)—Sponsored by the Tompkins-McCaw Library of Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries, COIN offers four consumer health information centers to the general public. Its purpose is to empower individuals to learn more about their health.

The ten finalists will be presented on May 3 at the National Library of Medicine in a day-long forum built around the subject of libraries and health information. Dr. J. Edward Hill, President of the American Medical Association, will be the Keynote Speaker. The forum will also be addressed by Surgeon General Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona. Representatives of the finalist organizations will discuss their programs in three categories: “Effective Programs,” “Health Literacy,” and “Partnerships and Outreach.” Each finalist will be awarded a \$1,000 prize in recognition of their library’s work.

At a reception at the end of the day, the Commission will announce the Grand Prize Winner, chosen from the finalists, with a prize of \$20,000 to be awarded to that program.

ABOUT NCLIS

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) is a permanent, independent agency of the Federal government charged by Public Law 91-345 to advise the President and Congress on national and international library and information policies, to appraise and assess the adequacies and deficiencies of library and information resources and services, and to develop overall plans for meeting national library and information needs.

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