



NCLIS

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For Immediate Release

NCLIS Releases Report of 2006 Libraries and Health Information Initiative

Awards Data Informs Policy Advice to President and Congress

Washington, DC USA July 27, 2006 – Beth Fitzsimmons, Chairman of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, has announced the release of the Commission’s report on libraries and health information provision for American citizens. The report, “Libraries and Health Information: The NCLIS Health Information Awards for Libraries and The Libraries and Health Information Forum, May 3, 2006,” is available at <http://www.nclis.gov/award/NCLIS2006HealthAwardsFinalRept.pdf>.

The report details information submitted to the Commission by applicants for the NCLIS Health Information Awards for Libraries, an initiative undertaken by the Commission to identify the best work that American libraries are doing in providing health information to citizens.

“The statutory role of the Commission is to provide policy advice to the President and Congress about matters pertaining to library and information science,” said Dr. Fitzsimmons. “With the publication of this report, the Commissioners could not be more pleased with the information we will convey. In presenting this information to the Nation’s leaders, the Commission calls attention to the fact that libraries are the appropriate vehicle for delivering health information to the American people and, we hope, encourages further efforts in using libraries for this purpose.”

The report provides program descriptions of the ten finalists in the awards initiative, including the specific details of the program judged the Nation’s best library program in consumer health information, South Carolina’s REACH 2010 – The Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition’s Library Partnership. In addition, program descriptions and contact information is provided for the other nine finalists in the recognition initiative, and contact information is provided for other state winners.

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The winning programs were discussed in detail at The 2006 Libraries & Health Information Forum, held on May 3 at the Lister Hill Center Auditorium of the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health, described in the report. The award, with a check for \$20,000 and a commemorative plaque, was presented to the South Carolina partnership at a reception immediately following the Forum (further details about the Forum can be found at <http://www.nclis.gov/award/healthawards06.html>).

In her Introduction to the report, Chairman Fitzsimmons pointed out that the report represents something of a milestone in the Commission's history.

"First of all," Dr. Fitzsimmons said, "the report describes the results of an initiative, one of several, to address the library and information needs of America's citizens. This is exactly what we of the Commission have been appointed by the President to do."

The recognition award also acknowledges the commitment of librarians and library managers in providing relevant and responsive services to the American people, noted Dr. Fitzsimmons.

"This award demonstrates professional expertise of the many librarians who bring health information to their library's users. These people are the standard bearers in health information delivery, and the award initiative enables the Commission to bring attention to their good work, which we are happy – and honored – to do," she said.

"At the same time," Dr. Fitzsimmons continued, "the award gives the Commission the opportunity to publish and disseminate information about successful programs that can be replicated in other libraries which is, perhaps, the real purpose of this document. The Commission is pleased to be able to bring this information to the President and Congress and to the American citizens, but in providing library managers with prototype programs that can be adapted for their own situations, our advisory role reaches out into our Nation's communities, and that is a role we take on with great enthusiasm."

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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