



LEADERSHIP. ADVOCACY. COMMUNICATION.

STATE LEADERS RECOGNIZED FOR LIBRARY SUPPORT

The Florida Library Association (FLA) announces its 2011 legislative awards for support of Florida's libraries. With these awards, the Florida library community thanks legislators and state leaders who advocated for libraries in the 2011 Florida legislature. By honoring these leaders, FLA encourages local library supporters to recognize the hard work done by their leaders in maintaining state funding for public libraries.

State Aid to Public Libraries grant funding is a priority issue for Florida libraries and the communities they serve. Although the 2011 Legislative session brought another challenging budget process, many legislators and state leaders contributed to the effort to save library funding. The Florida library community would like to recognize and to thank the many legislators who helped to save State Aid.

Florida Library Association legislative awards will be presented to legislators in their home communities by local library officials and supporters.

State Leaders Who Led the Way in Insuring that State Aid to Public Libraries Was Funded for Another Year

- Governor Rick Scott
- Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll
- Secretary of State Kurt Browning

The inclusion of State Aid in the Governor's budget paved the way for the continuation of essential library services. The support of Lt. Governor Carroll and Secretary Browning encouraged legislators to retain this funding.

Outstanding Leadership in Support of Library Funding

- Representative Mike Horner, Chair, House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee

Legislators Who Went Out of Their Way and Made Special Efforts to Make Sure that Libraries Were Funded

- Senate President Mike Haridopolos
- Speaker of the House Dean Cannon
- Senator Don Gaetz
- Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto
- Senator Charlie Dean
- Senator JD Alexander
- Senator Bill Montford

- Senator Greg Evers
- Representative Denise Grimsley
- Representative Will W. Weatherford
- Representative Marti Coley

Each of these legislators in their roles as members of their respective houses exercised a leadership role to help ensure continued library funding.

Legislative Leaders Without Whose Support Library Funding Would Not Have Been Won

- Representative Leonard Bembry
- Representative Lori Berman
- Representative Mack Bernard
- Representative Rachel Burgin
- Representative Mike Fasano
- Representative Rich Glorioso
- Representative Evan Jenne
- Representative Peter Nehr

These members of the Florida House demonstrated strong support of libraries and recognition of the value that libraries contribute to their communities and made this support known to fellow legislators.

Outstanding Individuals

- Allen Boyd, United States Congressman and former State Representative
- Chris Doolin, Small County Coalition of Florida

These two individuals demonstrated outstanding advocacy on the part of Florida's rural communities, including the libraries serving those communities.

The individuals named here are those whose efforts on behalf of libraries have come to our attention. There may be others whose efforts were not reported to us. We extend our thanks to all legislators who advocated for library funding and our apologies to any who may not have been named.

The Florida Library Association is a non-profit organization of libraries, library staff and those who support libraries with more than 1,000 members across the state.

FLA advocates for excellence in all types of library service throughout Florida. FLA also develops the skills of librarians and support staff and works closely with the information industry.

More information about the Florida Library Association and its advocacy efforts is available online at <http://www.flalib.org/advocacy.php>