The Florida Library Association (FLA) announces its 2014 legislative awards for support of Florida’s libraries. With these awards, the Florida library community thanks legislators and state leaders who took action to support libraries and library funding in the 2014 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 and this year we are particularly appreciative because the Legislature and Governor approved a $5 million increase, bringing the total to $27,409,823. The Florida library community would like to recognize and to thank the many governmental leaders who played a role in providing this increase.

State leaders who led the way in insuring funding for State Aid to Public Libraries:

- Governor Rick Scott
- Secretary of State Ken Detzner

The inclusion of State Aid in the Governor’s budget paved the way for the continuation of essential public library services. These awards will be presented by FLA President Linda McCarthy.

Legislative leaders who were outstanding in their support of Florida’s libraries during the 2014 legislative session:

- Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (District 30, Charlotte and Lee Counties)
- Senator Jeff Brandes (District 22, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties)
- Senator Andy Gardiner (District 13, Brevard and Orange Counties)
- Senator Audrey Gibson (District 9, Duval County)
- Senator Jack Latvala (District 20, Pinellas County)
- Senator Bill Montford – serves District 3, including Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties
- Senator Joe Negron (District 32, Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties)
- Representative Steve Crisafulli (District 51, Brevard County)
- Representative Ed Hooper (District 67, Pinellas County)
- Representative Seth McKeel (District 40, Polk County)
- Representative Mark Pafford (District 86, Palm Beach County)
The Florida Library Association’s legislative awards will be presented to legislators in their home communities by local library officials and supporters. 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 libraries 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

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