

PRESS RELEASE

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**ILLINOIS READS BOOK FESTIVAL SET FOR MARCH 14 IN OGLESBY;
PROGRAM NAMED LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LITERACY AWARD WINNER**

With final planning for next month's 2020 Illinois Reads Book Festival at Illinois Valley Community College in the final stages, the Illinois Reading Council has received word that the Illinois Reads program is a 2020 Library of Congress Literacy Award winner.

That means Illinois Reads will receive a \$2,225 grant from the Library of Congress through the Illinois Center for the Book and the Illinois State Library. The Library of Congress State Literacy Awards Program is made possible through the generous support of David M. Rubenstein.

"We will celebrate this wonderful news at our Book Festival," said Illinois Reads Chairperson Tammy Potts. "The grant will help grow our program's mission to promote reading statewide while celebrating authors and illustrators with ties to Illinois."

Two thirds of the 2020 Illinois Reads authors will be on hand at the March 14 Illinois Reads Book Festival at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby. Free to the public with lots of free parking, the Festival will feature plenty of fun activities including a writing workshop by local author Julia Durango, literacy stations with crafts and activities for younger readers, and a performance by the LaSalle-Peru High School Jazz Band.

Authors who will be in attendance and will be available for conversations include:

Ages Birth – 4 Years: *Bears Scare* by Jacob Grant, *Beware!* by Bob Raczka, illustrated by Larry Day; *Chinese New Year Colors* by Rich Lo; and *Peekity Boo What Can I Do!* By Heidi Bee Roemer

Grades K-2: *Jasper & Ollie* by Alex Willan, *Just Read!* By Lori Degeman; *My Teacher is a Robot* by Jeffrey Brown; and *Oak Leaf* by John Sandford

Grades 3-5: *Cape—The League of Secret Heroes, Book One* by Kate Hannigan; *Captain Superlative!* by J.S. Puller; *The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street* by Lindsay Currie; *The Superlative A. Lincoln: Poems About Our 16th President* by Eileen R. Meyer; *Time Castaways #1: The Mona Lisa Key* by Liesl Shurtliff; and *Weird Little Robots* by Carolyn Crimi

Grades 6-8: *Fireborne* by Rosaria Munda; *Powers in Action, Volume 1: The Hero Squadron!* by Art Baltazar; *Robert E. Lee: The Man, the Soldier, the Myth* by Brandon Marie Miller; *Windy City Magic, Book 1: The Best Kind of Magic* by Crystal Cestari

Grades 9-12: *Sorry for Your Loss* by Jessie Ann Foley; *The Waking Forest* by Alyssa Wees; *Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All* by Laura Ruby; *Verify* by Joelle Charbonneau; and *We Speak in Storms* by Natalie Lind

Adult: *The Boat Runner: A Novel* by Devin Murphy

The Festival is FREE and runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Individuals and school groups of all ages are welcome. No pre-registration is necessary.

A statewide project promoting reading for Illinois citizens, ILLINOIS READS annually recommends six books in six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to books for adult readers. For the past eight years, the IRC and Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, who serves as Honorary Chairman of the Illinois Reads program, have worked together to select books written by authors who have a tie to Illinois.

Booklists for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 may be found on the ILLINOIS READS' web site: www.illinoisreads.org

Illinois Reads is sponsored by the Illinois Reading Council, a nonprofit organization with close to 4,000 members across the State of Illinois. The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to all who promote and teach lifelong literacy.

More information is available: www.illinoisreadsbookfestival; www.illinoisreads.org

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