

Urbana School District 116

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urbana Read Across America Event Wins National Award *2008 Best Co-Sponsored Event Winner*

The National Education Association (NEA) has awarded the local Urbana Read Across America event with the 2008 NEA's Read Across America Award for "Best Co-Sponsored Event." This is the only event in the nation to win the "Best Co-Sponsored Event." Read Across America promotes family literacy. Urbana Adult Education coordinated the event along with:

- Altrusa International, Inc.
- Parkland College
- The News-Gazette
- U of I Extension
- Urbana Free Library
- Champaign Library-Douglas Branch
- Mental Health Center of Champaign County Healthy Families Program
- The Reading Group
- Child Care Resource Services
- WILL-AM-FM-TV

The NEA presented the Urbana Education Association with a \$250 check "to purchase books for the school library and continue its award-winning literacy efforts." Dennis Van Roekel, NEA President, noted, "Among the many entries submitted to the NEA for this award, your program clearly stood out and we are happy to honor you and others for their hard work and creativity."

Sherri Langendorf is co-chair for the local Read Across America event, and she is very pleased with the award. This was the 9th annual local event. "We want young children to have a good start and to really celebrate reading and for them to realize that it's very important to be a good reader so they can be successful in school. We want parents to be supported as well. It's a fun day of celebration," Langendorf says.

Read Across America Day takes place in March to honor Dr. Seuss' birthday. For more information about Read Across America, please see <http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>.

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