

For immediate release

February 19

***RESEARCH LINKS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES:  
LIBRARY ADVOCATES ATTEND TRAINING ON RESEARCH RESULTS***

**Arlington Heights, IL** -- The findings of a major study, showing how student achievement is positively impacted by Illinois school libraries, was the subject of a training session held at the Sheraton in Arlington Heights on Saturday, **February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

“The study confirms that the strongest library predictor of high student achievement scores is a staff that includes at least one trained librarian, as well as support staff,” says Keith Curry Lance of the RSL Research Group in Colorado. “Reading, writing, and ACT scores rise when students have larger, more current book collections and computers connected to library databases and catalogs.”

Lance is the author of the study "Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Study of Illinois School Libraries". Lance released and discussed the findings of the study at Arlington Heights.

The report, which sampled 661 Illinois public elementary and secondary schools, compared Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) scores with the presence of school libraries and librarians.

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in \_\_\_\_\_ attended the training session and will bring the  
results to \_\_\_\_\_.

Key research findings of the study include:

1. Schools with better-staffed libraries have more students who succeed on tests.
2. High schools with computers that connect to library catalogs and databases average 6.2% improvement on ACT scores.
3. Students that visit the library more frequently receive improved reading and writing scores.
4. Students with access to larger, more current book collections achieve higher reading, writing, and ACT scores.

The study was commissioned by the Illinois School Library Media Association with a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a division of the office of Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian. Funding for the study was also provided by the 21st Century Information Fluency Program, a grant funded project that trains teachers, librarians and students in enhancing their ability to locate, evaluate and use digital information resources. The study is endorsed by the Illinois State Board of Education, who provided data for the research.

The Illinois School Library Media Association, based in Canton, was created in 1988 to provide leadership and support for the development, promotion, and improvement of the school library media profession and programs in Illinois.

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