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2016 South Carolina Association of School Librarians Honors Professionals

MYRTLE BEACH, SC, March 3, 2016 – The South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) honored professionals this morning at the 41st Annual South Carolina Association of School Librarians conference held at Kingston Plantation.

Mrs. Pamela Williams, librarian at Columbia High School, was honored as SCASL's **School Librarian of the Year**. The award recognizes a certified school librarian who has made an outstanding contribution to the school library. Mrs. Williams has been an educator for 17 year and a school librarian in Richland School District One for the past 11 years. After beginning her career as a classroom teacher, she later graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Master's of Library and Information Science. She is currently enrolled in a Master of Arts degree program in Curriculum and Instruction at Gardner-Webb University and recently became a National Board Certified Teacher. She has been instrumental in SCASL, serving on the board of Directors in past years as well as chairing the Young adult Book Award Committee. Principal Shenequa Coles states, "Pamela is a master of team building and working collaboratively with others and is always organized, efficient, and willing to do whatever is needed to ensure that staff students, and other stakeholders perform to their maximum potential."

Mrs. Ida Thompson, Director of Instructional Technology Services in Richland One, was honored as SCASL's **Administrator of the Year**. The award recognizes an administrator on the school, district, or state level, whose vision and leadership has contributed substantially to the school library media program in one or a group of South Carolina schools. Mrs. Thompson has been in her position for 20 years, and under her leadership, her district's technology education efforts have grown and become recognized national as a comprehensive program of quality professional development and resource delivery. She continually advocates for school libraries on all levels including staffing, funding and facilities and for inclusion of school libraries in instruction initiatives. Her professional commitments at the state and national levels are well-document and exemplify her love for the profession. She is currently a member of the Coretta Scott King Award Jury and the SC Read to Succeed Advisor Committee. Mrs. Thompson holds degrees in Educational Administration, Library and Information Science, and Student Personnel Service.

Jennifer Gibson, Library Assistant at North Central Middle School and North Central High School in Kershaw County, was honored as **Media Paraprofessional of the Year**. The Media Paraprofessional Award recognizes the exemplary performance of a paraprofessional who directly supports the media profession either at the building or district level. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Radford University. Currently in her 6th year at her libraries, Mrs. Gibson has done an excellent job learning each school's unique collection and the reading habits of its students, as well as the varying requirements of her two supervisors. Mrs. Gibson comes to work each and every day with a great attitude energetic an enthusiastic, and is able to juggle the demands of her two schools with ease, which necessitates a highly varied and flexible schedule which often changes weekly. To quote from the nomination letter by Julie Putman, "she goes above and beyond daily to make her libraries the hub of her schools and to support her librarians and to make reading come alive for her patrons".

Susan Altman, library assistant at Forest Heights Elementary School in Richland One, received the **Nancy Jane Day Scholarship**, which is awarded to a SCASL member to reimburse the cost of one successfully completed college course taken for credit to improve job performance or to complete a graduate degree in library science. The scholarship honors Nancy Jane Day who was the Supervisor of Library Services for the South Carolina State Department of Education for twenty-four years. Ms Altman is currently working towards her MLIS with school library certification at the University of South Carolina.

La'Chania Edwards, senior at Waggener-Salley High School in Aiken County, received the **Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship**, which honors a high school senior library volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to South Carolina school librarianship, school library media services, and/or SCASL. Heather Loy, librarian at Wagener-Salley High School states, "Her diligence to her service, even when it is not her time to "work", is invaluable to our program." La'Chania is a budding artist and a WSHS National Art Honor Society Member who has been accepted to the Art Institute of Charleston.

Kathy Sutusky received the **Distinguished Service Award**, which recognizes an individual or an organization for contributions to SCASL and/or school library programs throughout the state of SC. This year's rocking recipient is no stranger to anyone who has had anything to do with SCASL in the past 15 years. After a career in higher education, Ms. Sutusky came to the school library profession at Richland One as a high school librarian and built dynamic quality programs at Dreher High School and Eau Claire High. She served Richland One for 26 years before she retired in 2012. Ms. Sutusky has been an active member of SCASL for many years, serving eight years as Executive Secretary. She has served as president elect, president, and other positions on the Board of Directors. In addition to working for SCASL, she also served as an active member of the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Her extensive knowledge of the history of SCASL is a great asset to our organization. For the past 3 years, she has worked tirelessly with Keith Curry Lance as project manager on our School Library Impact study. She has co-presented at statewide conferences and meetings to let our stakeholders know about the value of school librarians to student achievement. She has always been a dynamic advocate for our profession and a guiding force behind the success of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians

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