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Celebrating Arlene Pennie's 25 Years of Service to IRC



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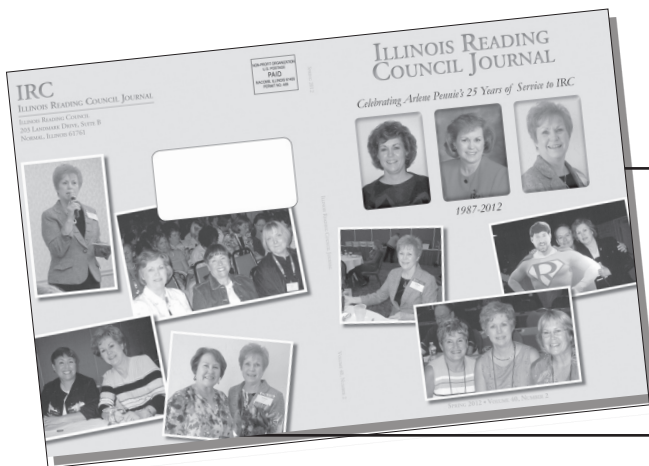
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Because the *IRCJ* serves as an open forum, its contents do not necessarily reflect or imply endorsement or advocacy by the Illinois Reading Council, its officers, or its members.

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About the Cover

The cover features photographs taken throughout Arlene's years with the Illinois Reading Council. Individuals appearing with Arlene in photographs on the front cover include Steve Layne (aka Superman), Larry Pennie, Susan Cisna, and Cindy Wilson. Back cover photos include Ellen Stergulz, Pam Nelson, and Cindy Wilson.

MISSION

The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to educators as they promote and teach lifelong literacy.

VISION

The Illinois Reading Council advocates quality literacy opportunities for all learners and serves as a primary organization that provides educators at all levels access to research, materials, and methodologies to promote and teach lifelong literacy and learning. Support of an active, well-organized system of local and special interest councils and state committees provides a viable network for communication, exchange of information, and grassroots involvement of a diverse membership. The Illinois Reading Council's publications, special projects, conferences, and workshops stimulate the personal and professional growth of educators.

Editor's Page

Kathy Barclay, Editor

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the *Illinois Reading Council Journal* and the Executive Board of the Illinois Reading Council, I am thrilled to dedicate this issue of *IRCJ* to a very special individual—Arlene Pennie. This is Arlene's 25th year of service to the Illinois Reading Council. As you will read in the pages that follow, the IRC we know and appreciate today was, in no small way, shaped by Arlene. Robert Bernard Reich, renowned American political economist, professor, author, and political commentator observed, "A leader is someone who steps back from the entire system and tries to build a more collaborative, more innovative system that will work over the long term." This is exactly what Arlene has done throughout her tenure as Executive Director of the IRC. Her vision of how the IRC could function most effectively; her sound organizational and business skills; and her congenial style of working with the officers, Executive Board, and membership have made the IRC one of the largest and strongest state councils affiliated with the International Reading Association (IRA). While many IRA state councils struggle to maintain an active membership and to provide members with resources,

such as publications and conferences, under Arlene's steady leadership, IRC members have, for many years, benefited from a quarterly refereed professional journal, a newsletter, a large annual state conference, grant programs, and a network of thriving and well-supported local councils. In fact, the IRC Annual State Conference is just days away, and you can be sure that Arlene and the other IRC staff members and officers are diligently working to ensure a successful conference experience for all!

On page 3 of this issue, you will find an interesting interview with Arlene conducted and authored by Ronda Brown, followed by a collection of letters from former IRC presidents. Three feature articles as well as our regular columns appear next and offer myriad ideas for bridging research and practice. Please be sure to note the survey in the Teaching Tips column. We need your input and are counting on you to submit your best teaching tips for use in future columns.

I know you join me in recognizing and celebrating Arlene's many contributions to the IRC, and I trust that you will enjoy this special issue!

Kathy

Reference

Reich, R. B. (n.d.). *Quotes.net*. Retrieved January 14, 2012, from www.quotes.net/quote/16883.