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Dear Illinois Reading Council Member,

Do you know a K-8 teacher and Illinois Reading Council member who teaches in a rural school who could make good use of a classroom library? If so, the Illinois Reading Council is honored to invite you to submit a nomination for the **Pamela J. Farris Rural Classroom Library Award**. The award was created in 2012 by a gift from Pamela J. Farris to the Illinois Reading Council.

Dr. Farris attended a small rural school as a child, and she later began her teaching career in rural schools. She notes that students in rural schools often lack access to public libraries, and they usually are not able to provide funding offered by larger school districts and towns for school libraries. This makes it difficult for rural teachers to offer a wide selection of high quality, interesting literature to students as they teach. Classroom libraries make a difference by providing such books. According to Pam, “By providing interesting books, students tend to read more and read better.”

This award provides the winning teacher with a classroom library, selected by the committee, to target the grade level and needs of the award-winning teacher. The library is designed to enhance the availability of quality literature for students to read. It will be valued at over \$500.00. The award will be open to all K-8 classroom teachers who teach in rural schools (town population less than 2,500) in Illinois.

Submit a nomination by completing the enclosed form by **March 1st**. Nominations must be made by current Illinois Reading Council members. Self-nominations are both permitted and encouraged. If you have any questions about eligibility, the award, or how to complete the nomination, email Dr. Farris at pamelafarris@comcast.net with subject as “Rural School Classroom Library.”

By completing a nomination, you will be

- Serving the Illinois Reading Council in its mission to support literacy development;
- Helping a rural elementary teacher bring quality literature to his/her students;
- And responding to Dr. Farris’s challenge to “get kids to read more and read better.”

Thank you in advance for helping the Illinois Reading Council with the Pamela J. Farris Rural Classroom Library Award. Together we are advancing literacy by supporting teachers and their students.

Dr. Pamela J. Farris
Chair, Pamela J. Farris Rural Classroom Library Award

Members of the committee:

Mary Gardner
Kim McKenna
Pamela Nelson
Erin Taylor

Pamela J. Farris Rural Library Award

Illinois Reading Council

Nomination (Application) Form Due March 1st

(Self Nominations & Nominations by Others Welcome)

Nominator Name: _____

Relation to Nominee: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Contact Information for Nominator

Affiliations (IRC, School, University, School Patron): _____

Title/Position: _____

IRC Membership Number and Expiration Date: _____

IRC Council: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Name of Teacher Nominee: _____

Contact Information for Nominee

Affiliations (IRC, School Name): _____

Position/Grade Level: _____

IRC Membership Number and Expiration Date: _____

IRC Council: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ School Phone: _____

Please tell us about the nominee's (your) teaching positions throughout his/her years as a teacher.

On a SEPARATE SHEET, describe how the nominee (you) meet(s) the intention of the award. Please address in some detail:

- How the school matches the target population;
- How the nominee has made good use of children's and YA literature in his/her classroom making it possible for students to engage in self-selection of materials;
- How the nominee is positioned to make use of children's and YA literature (K-8) using an in-classroom library to enhance literacy development of his/her students;
- And how the nominee, by history and job circumstances, is likely to use the library in the next five years.

Note: Finalist(s) will be visited to confirm the above criteria and to assess needs noted by the classroom teacher.

Submit application **by March 1st** to: Illinois Reading Council, Attn: Farris Rural Library Award, 203 Landmark Drive, Suite B, Normal, Illinois 61761. Electronic submission are acceptable also. Submit to irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.