



For Immediate Release:
September 3, 2015

Media Contact:
Jason Alston
jasonalston@gmail.com
803-822-3075

NCAAL 9 BCALA Awards Recipients Named

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association has announced the BCALA Awards winners from its most recent National Conference of African American Librarians, held Aug. 4-8, 2015 in St. Louis, Mo.

Headlining the ceremony were the 45th Anniversary Trailblazer Awards, given to **Mary Biblo**, retired, Rowley Library, University of Chicago Laboratory School and **Thomas E. Alford, Sr.**, retired director, Queens Public Library. The Trailblazer Award is given every five years and is BCALA's highest award.

Gerald V. Holmes of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro won the BCALA Distinguished Service to the Library Profession Award. Holmes was selected for this award in recognition of his having made significant and extraordinary contributions in service to the library profession by introducing new concepts, providing exceptional leadership or by setting unprecedented participation standards.

BCALA president **Kelvin Watson** won the Distinguished Service to BCALA Award, given to a nominee with continuous and significant service to BCALA's operation.

Winning the BCALA Appreciation Award were **Dr. Claudette McLinn** of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature and **DeLoice Holliday**, head of the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center Library at Indiana University. The BCALA Appreciation Award is given to nominees who made unusual or significant contributions to BCALA's effectiveness.

Dr. **Jon E. Cawthorne**, dean of West Virginia University Libraries, received the BCALA Library Advocacy Award, given to nominees who have shown a dedicated commitment in support of library and information services to African-Americans and other ethnic communities.

K.C. Boyd of the East St. Louis, Ill. school district #189 and **Roland Barksdale-Hall** of Youngstown State University received BCALA Leadership Awards. The BCALA Leadership Award goes to nominees who have made contributions that result in their recognition as leaders in the library profession.

Two BCALA Professional Achievement Award recipients were named. **Tracy Crawford** of Queens Library in New York and **Mary Mosley Cooper**, retired, received this honor, awarded to nominees who have exhibited meritorious achievement and distinction in the field of African-American librarianship which exceed achievement levels normally expected.

Makiba Foster of Washington University in St. Louis won the Dr. John C. Tyson Award, which is given to a professional with outstanding contributions to the field who has less than ten years of professional service.

"We had a particularly strong slate of nominees this year and all of our winners are quite deserving," said BCALA president Kelvin Watson. "There are actually many more who would have been worthy of honors in our organization, but they'll continue being great practitioners and will win future awards both with us and with other organizations."

###

More information about BCALA is available at www.bcala.org.