

Grand Opening of the
Lincoln's Challenge Library

Wednesday, April 7, 1999, 10:30 a.m.
Grissom Hall, Rantoul, Illinois

Refreshments

Welcome and Introductions *Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gary Sadler, Director*
Lincoln's Challenge

Special Acknowledgments *Lt. Col. (Ret.) Rich Norris, Chief Instructor*
Lincoln's Challenge
Brenda Pacey, Associate Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Remarks *Jan Ison, Executive Director*
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
Major General Richard G. Austin
Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard

Ribbon Cutting *Jan Ison*
Jeanne Flynn, Consultant, Illinois State Library
MG Richard G. Austin
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gary Sadler

Corpsmember "Inaugural Patrons"

Library Open House for Students, Staff, and Distinguished Guests

Funding for the Library's establishment was provided by
a grant awarded to the Lincoln Trail Libraries System
by the Illinois State Library,
Division of the Office of Secretary of State, using
federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding.

Lincoln's Challenge Program

The Illinois National Guard Lincoln's Challenge Program is a federal and state funded youth program for 16-18 year old at-risk youth in Illinois. The Illinois program's first cycle of students was accepted in September of 1993. In the spring of 1999, there are 402 Corpsmembers (students) in the 12th Cycle. This program is designed to offer its Corpsmembers a variety of educational and vocational opportunities as well as life skills necessary to become successful members of their communities, work, and school. Lincoln's Challenge is a 17-month, two-phased military modeled training program. The first five months, the Resident Phase, are spent at the Rantoul facility. In addition to physical training and classroom instruction, each participant is required to complete 40 hours of community service activities as well as play an important role in the upkeep of living quarters and training facilities.

Upon successful completion of the Resident Phase, Corpsmembers enter the Post Resident Phase where they are assigned a mentor from their community who will assist them with completing the educational and vocational goals set in the Resident Phase.

Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Founded in 1966, Lincoln Trail Libraries System has headquarters in Champaign and is one of 12 regional library systems in the state of Illinois. The System serves 7 academic, 53 public, 44 school, and 17 special libraries in Champaign, Clark, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. Lincoln Trail Libraries System also has a long history of working closely with education, literacy, and community agencies of all types to develop new and expanded programs to meet unique information needs, to better serve special populations, and to expand citizen access to library information services in all formats.

Lincoln's Challenge Library

In the summer of 1998, the Illinois State Library (a Division of the Office of Secretary of State) asked Lincoln Trail Libraries System to administer a special federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to establish a library collection at the Rantoul Lincoln's Challenge campus. Project Director Brenda Pacey consulted with Lincoln's Challenge staff and area literacy, public library, and educational service region staff to select, acquire, catalog, and process a 2,100-volume "starter library."

The collection is designed to meet needs of the student body--ages 16-18, predominantly male, ethnically and racially diverse, with reading levels ranging from 4.0 to 12.0. Materials include basic encyclopedia (print and CD ROM) and reference and literacy tools, fiction (popular adult, young adult, reluctant reader, adult new readers), popular biography, career and job skill education (print and CD ROM), basic non-fiction, and some Spanish language materials.

Lincoln's Challenge has prepared the library's quarters, has provided shelving and microcomputer stations, and will coordinate staffing, expanded media and computer software access, and ongoing program development in the future. Corpsmember volunteers assisted with the physical setup of the new facility. Lincoln Trail Libraries

System staff will continue to consult with Lincoln's Challenge as its new library program becomes an integral part of its unique educational program.

Special Acknowledgements

George Ryan, Governor
Jesse White, Secretary of State
Bridget Lamont, Director of Policy Development, Office of the Governor
Jean Wilkins, Director, Illinois State Library
Jeanne Flynn, Consultant, Illinois State Library
Jan Ison, Executive Director, Lincoln Trail Libraries System
Brenda Pacey, Project Director, Lincoln Trail Libraries System
General John Johnston, Department of Veterans Affairs
Major General Richard G. Austin, Illinois National Guard
Brigadier General Paul G. Gebhardt, Illinois National Guard
Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Gary Sadler, Lincoln's Challenge
Dr. Brent DeLand, Lincoln's Challenge
Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Rich Norris, Lincoln's Challenge
Staff Association of Lincoln Trail Libraries System
Lincoln's Challenge Corpsmembers Aldridge, Barnes,
Beamon, Dalton, and Taylor (Cycle 12, Team 6)