

PRESS RELEASE

Eugenio María de

H O S T O S

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

of The City University of New York

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For Immediate Release

Hostos Library Selected to Receive the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) headquartered in Chicago, IL, has selected the Eugenio María de Hostos Community College/CUNY Library as a recipient of its annual “ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.”



Eugenio María de Hostos Community College Library (www.hostos.cuny.edu/Library/)

This award, which is sponsored by Blackwell's Book Services, was recently announced by ACRL and will be presented to Dr. Lucinda Zoe, Hostos' Chief Librarian, and her staff in a special ceremony to be held at the college in the spring of 2007.

When informing her colleagues of the award, Dr. Zoe declared, "In the library world, this high honor is the equivalent of winning an Oscar or the World Series."

ACRL, which is dedicated to the advancement of learning and scholarship among librarians, presents these awards to an outstanding community college, a college, and a university library each year, thereby honoring the accomplishments of librarians and library staff as members of a team that supports the mission of their institution.

The ACRL issued a press release indicating that the Hostos Library was being recognized for putting the "community" into community college, for its commitment to preserving unique collections about Eugenio María de Hostos, and for creating and preserving records about the founding of the college.

In the press release, Frances Maloy, chair of the 2007 Excellence in Academic Libraries Selection Committee and Division Leader of Access Services at Emory University, is quoted as follows:

The Hostos Library staff demonstrate [s] exemplary partnership and leadership with faculty in developing new curricular design and revitalization through the development of new courses designed to teach information literacy, critical thinking, computer literacy, and also by creating bilingual online learning environments.

The library staff has absorbed the meaning of the life of the person for whom the institution is named through their bilingual, multilevel, and curriculum integrated information literacy program. Their efforts to produce the bilingual student literary and art magazine, *¡Escriba!/Write!* and to create an inviting and bilingual student-focused environment in the library are also noteworthy.

Asked to comment about the significance of the award, Dr. Zoe stated:

"I cannot think of a better gift for our students and our community than to receive this national recognition of excellence for their library. This award sends a powerful message to our community in the South Bronx: you have the best and you deserve it."

Dr. Zoe continued:

Our library has undergone a dramatic and radical transformation over the past five years. It began with a shift to support the mission of our college more mindfully by delivering proactive, rather than reactive services and programs.

We did this by moving from a service-oriented library to a teaching library to give our students the critical academic literacy skills they need to succeed in their academic and life pursuits. This was accomplished thanks to solid and ongoing support from our president, Dr. Dolores M. Fernández, and also thanks to the CUNY Chancellor's Community College Investment Program (CCIP) initiative, which provides funding and support for CUNY libraries, including additional faculty lines as well as materials.



The Hostos Library staff

“While the faculty and staff of Hostos have received many prestigious honors, this one is particularly meaningful because it recognizes the strong commitment of our library personnel to the

advancement of learning and scholarship,” said President Dolores M. Fernández. “I congratulate Dr. Zoe and her staff for providing our students with the caliber of service that merited this year’s ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.”

In addition to the Hostos Community College Library, other award recipients include the Elizabeth Huth Coates Library at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and the Georgia Institute of Technology Library and Information Center in Atlanta. Each of these libraries will receive \$3,000 and a plaque, to be presented at an award ceremony on the recipient’s campus. In addition, each will also receive special recognition at the ACRL President’s Program during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, to be held on Monday, June 25, 2007, in Washington D.C.

ACRL is a division of the American Library Association, representing 13,000 academic and research librarians and other interested individuals. It is the only individual membership organization in North America that develops programs, products, and services to meet the unique needs of academic and research librarians. Its initiatives enable the higher education community to understand the role that academic libraries play in the teaching, learning, and research (www.acrl.org)

Hostos Community College is a unique institution that has experienced a very positive transformation in recent years. With renovated facilities and a faculty dedicated to excellence, the college provides an intellectually rich environment with high academic standards.

For more news about Hostos, please visit: www.hostos.cuny.edu/news/