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Colonial Heights Library wins Urban Libraries Innovator Award Library's supervisor also honored by Community group

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The [Sacramento Public Library](#) is thrilled to announce that the [Colonial Heights Library](#) was selected by the [Urban Libraries Council](#) as one of their [Top 10 Innovators for 2013](#). The program was selected by a panel of expert judges from more than 140 applications in the fourth annual [Urban Libraries Council Innovations Initiative](#).

The [Read & Feed Teaching and Demonstration Garden](#), which is the product of more than 600 hours of work by community volunteers, was recognized in the category of Sustainability. The library and garden are located in an underprivileged South Sacramento neighborhood where one quarter of the population is at the poverty level and seven out of ten neighborhood children are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches. The area is referred to as a "[food desert](#)" because of the lack of access to fresh produce.

The garden supports an ongoing series of programs emphasizing nutrition, healthy choices and service learning, including a [Kids' Garden Club](#). It features a [Seed Library](#), where visitors can get seeds for edible and ornamental plants. This summer, the Colonial Heights Library has also been hosting a garden-themed [Book to Action Series](#), concluding on [July 13](#) with author [Spring Warren](#) talking about her book "[The Quarter Acre Farm](#)."

Branch Supervisor Jami Trawick said the success of the project is due in large part to the community, which the library relied on for its expertise and for funding. Support has come from the [Junior League of Sacramento](#), the Ritz & June Naygrow Foundation, Gifts to Share, Inc., [the National Gardening Association](#), the [Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition](#) and Sacramento City Council [District 5](#) and [District 6](#).

"These goals would not have been met without the support of our funders and volunteers," Trawick said. "In a time of shrinking budgets, the community has stepped forward to support a new programming model they deem important."

On Saturday, June 29, Trawick also was honored by a community group in the Tahoe Park area for her great work to support the neighborhood. The 2013 HAVes Award was presented by a group of community members dedicated to celebrating that they "HAVE" in their community and to contribute to the overall health and well-being of Colonial Park, Tahoe Park, Tallac Village, Oak Park, Southeast Village and nearby areas.

The HAVE community group has received grants from the [First 5 Commission](#), which funds early childhood education programs. They have used this money for kids programs and materials at the library. However, the group's First 5 grant runs out in July.

Sacramento Public Library

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