



# Accolades

Kentucky is filled with awesome librarians who do outstanding things that win them accolades. The nature of most librarians does not encourage them to brag on themselves, so I do it for them.

Two that I have become aware of recently are Lynda Short, Library Media Specialist from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Lexington and Melissa Wells, Library Director from Menifee County Public Library.

Lynda was recently honored by her home state of Missouri with an invitation to be the keynote speaker at the Missouri Association of School Librarians annual conference. Additionally she presented three sessions, two outlining her successful "Reading Extravaganza."

Dunbar's "**Reading Extravaganza**" occurs three times a year. Adults select a title they would like to discuss with students; the students sign up to read a book and then come prepared on a specified date after school to join the adult group leader and 5-6 other students for a small group discussion. They average between 90-100 groups that include about 600 students. Titles run the gamut of YA fiction & nonfiction - current best sellers, Christian fiction & nonfiction, and graphic novels. Lynda chooses books from the public library with a special library card issued to her school that has unlimited checkouts and extended due dates.

The *National Association of Development Organizations* recently honored Melissa's library with their prestigious *Innovation Award*. This award showcases the creativity and significant, long-term impact of regional programs and projects such as Menifee County's "**Much Ado with Nothing: Reaching Out on a Budget**" that are key to sustaining and preserving the environmental, economic, and cultural heritage of our nation's regions and local communities. Melissa's many programs offered with a very small budget inspired the NADO to honor her with this award.

If you know of other instances of librarians doing great things, please share with me. Let's recognize our own as others recognize them.