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News Release

American Library Association Conference in Denver Starts Friday, Jan. 23

The American Library Association (ALA) is the voice of America's libraries. Starting on Friday, January 23, and ending Wednesday, January 28, the ALA Midwinter Meeting will draw nearly 10,000 leaders in the library and information industry for some 2,000 meetings and events at the Colorado Convention Center and surrounding hotels. The meeting will be held at the Colorado Convention Center. About 750 exhibits will feature the latest in books, videos, computers and other materials and resources available to millions of library users.

One featured event at each Midwinter Meeting is the announcement of several children's literature awards recognizing the best in literature and audiovisual materials for children, teens and adults. Recognized worldwide for the high-quality they represent, ALA awards guide parents, educators, librarians and others in selecting the best materials for youth.

Announced awards include the Newbery Medal for the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. The Caldecott Medal is awarded annually to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children. The Coretta Scott King Awards are presented to authors and illustrators of African descent whose books promote an understanding and appreciation of African-American culture.

Libraries are perhaps our most enduring public institutions—priceless repositories of history, language, and culture. Our libraries serve as centers of discovery, communication, and education--places where

people gather and where information comes alive through teaching and personal interaction.

As President Barack Obama stated, "We are the nation that has always understood that our future is inextricably linked to the education of our children — all of them..."

Libraries play an integral part in this vision of our new President.

Eugene Hainer, Director of the Colorado State Library, extends a warm welcome to all those coming to Denver to engage in supporting the education of our children and public through our libraries.

For more information, visit

<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/home.cfm>

For more information, contact Eugene Hainer, Director, Colorado State Library, 303-866-6733, or Shelley Walchak, Library Community Programs Consultant, 303-866-6891, in the Colorado State Library.