

GREECE PUBLIC LIBRARY IS 2012 SHUBERT LIBRARY EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

The New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries is pleased to announce that the 2012 Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award has been awarded to the *Greece Public Library* for their expansion of programming space.

In recent years, community programs had become so popular at the Greece Public Library that staffers frequently had to turn away interested parties. Bernadette Foster, Director of the Greece Public Library, said, "We needed to expand our program space, but we couldn't afford to expand the library." By taking advantage of tools from the Monroe County library system that keep track of which books and materials patrons are actually using, Greece library staff were able to scale down their collection of books and open up enough space to triple the size of the program room. "We were able to identify what people in this community wanted from their library collection and were able to delete a lot of things that were just sitting there not being used and we were able to buy things that people really want," said Foster.

The redistribution of the materials budget in response to collection analysis resulted in an immediate increase in availability of best-selling titles and a reduction in the length of waiting time for items of interest. The more focused patron driven purchasing methods also contributed to an increase in first visit customer satisfaction. As Ms Foster noted, "It was an earthquake in the philosophical environment of librarianship at the Greece Public Library, but the ambition of improving the quality of service and increasing the number of satisfied patrons resulted in a full recovery."

The award will be officially presented in November at the 2012 New York Library Association Conference in Saratoga Springs. As the 2012 Shubert Award winner, the Greece Public Library will receive \$1,000, which is graciously donated by the Friends of the New York State Library, and a plaque.

Members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries 2012 Shubert Award Committee are Mary Muller, Chair; Steve Manning; and Sharon Orienter. The Committee was uniformly enthusiastic in its decision to honor the Greece Public Library submission as an excellent example of the "spirit of the Shubert award."

The Joseph F. Shubert Excellence Award is given annually to recognize the achievements of small, medium and large libraries and library consortia in New York State. The Award honors libraries or library consortia that have taken significant steps within the past two years to improve the quality of library service to users. For more information about the Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award and the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, visit: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/adviscns/rac/index.html> or contact the Office of the State Librarian at (518) 474-5930.