

## Cynthia Berner Harris Receives State Library's Shining Star Certificate

by Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Projects Director

Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries, Wichita Public Library, was honored with the State Library's "Shining Star" certificate of appreciation recently at the first Wichita Commission meeting of the new year, January 9, 2007. The "Shining Star" certificate was created to recognize exemplary Kansas library service.

Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Projects Director and Coordinator of the Kansas Center for the Book, made the presentation to Cynthia Berner Harris for her outstanding library service. The award was made especially for:

- Outstanding leadership and local site management of the 2006 Kansas Book Festival in Wichita, September 29-30, 2006.
- Advocacy and guidance as the first chair of the Board of Affiliates, Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library.
- Unflagging efforts to collaborate and promote all projects of the Kansas Center for the Book.



*Vikki Jo Stewart (left) Presented Shining Star Certificate to Cynthia Berner Harris*

Mayor Carlos Mayans read the supporting statements recognizing Cynthia's efforts before the Wichita City Commission and led the applause when Mrs. Stewart presented the "Shining Star!" Present to share the moment with Cynthia were her mother and husband.

Cynthia Berner Harris was also praised for her leadership of the Wichita Public Library, The Discovery Center! It was noted that under her guidance, the Wichita Public Library on an average day circulates more than 5,100 items to

patrons, answers 900 reference questions, and welcomes 122 people who visit the library for tours and programs. Recent library accomplishments include a fourth straight year of an increase in circulated reading materials; a 61 percent increase in children's program attendance; nearly 17,500 new customer accounts last year; various enhancements to the library's online catalog, and much, much more! Check out the website at <http://www.wichita.lib.ks.us/>.

Lastly, City Manager George Kolb said of Cynthia, "She's an outstanding public servant who is passionate about literacy as well as increasing public access to information and technology."