

Lawrence Librarian Wins Award for Work in Senior Advocacy

by Bruce Flanders, Lawrence Public Library Director

The Lawrence Public Library is proud to announce that Pattie Johnston, Senior Outreach Coordinator, received the first "Professional of the Year for Excellence in Senior Advocacy" award from the Lawrence Area Partners in Aging (LAPA) on September 20, 2007. LAPA is a coalition of businesses, agencies, retirement communities and aging advocates. It is designed to allow senior service groups to come together for networking, education and communication.

The award was given in recognition of Pattie's involvement in many areas of senior and aging issues.

Pattie has developed numerous programs and services for older library patrons, and has collaborated with other organizations to provide activities and programs for the local senior community. In addition to LAPA, she is an active member of the Older Women's League, the Coalition to Honor End-of-Life Choices and the Douglas County Advocacy Council on Aging. Pattie is the President of the local chapter of AARP, and a member of the Board of Directors of Douglas County Senior Services.

In an additional honor, Pattie has recently been accepted into the "Citizen Journalism Academy" sponsored by The World Company (the local newspaper publisher and cable television company) and the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas. Citizen Journalism Academy Fellows will learn from educators and practicing journalists about the processes and standards that help translate community activities and events into "news." Fellows also will learn how news decisions are made, the ethics of storytelling, how to ask the right questions and a number of other key topics.



Pattie's participation in these many organizations not only contributes to enhanced senior services in Lawrence and Douglas County, but greatly increases the visibility of the Lawrence Public Library as a key senior services player. Pattie's recent award will be recognized at the October meeting of the Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees.