

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
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January 11, 2017

**Citizens' Environmental Commission Presents P.R.I.D.E. Awards**

Each December, the Citizens' Environmental Commission presents P.R.I.D.E. Awards at a regularly scheduled meeting of the DeKalb City Council. P.R.I.D.E. refers to People Responsible for Improving DeKalb's Environment. These awards recognize local residents, organizations, or businesses that have significantly improved the quality of life in DeKalb through projects, activities, or programs emphasizing resource conservation, energy efficiency, beautification, waste reduction, or similar environmental improvements. Those conducting projects or programs aimed at increasing public awareness and knowledge of specific environmental issues are also eligible for P.R.I.D.E. Awards.

The 2016 P.R.I.D.E. Awards were presented on December 12 to the DeKalb Public Library and to a local community volunteer. In presenting the awards, Dr. Oleckno, Chair of the Citizens' Environmental Commission, noted that the DeKalb Public Library "has taken numerous steps to conserve resources and protect the environment before, during, and after its recent reconstruction and remodeling." He cited significant reductions in water and energy use as well as efforts to reduce the use of toxic products while increasing recycling practices. Oleckno also noted that LEED certification guidelines were followed during the reconstruction and remodeling of the library. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, standards seek to promote ecologically sound buildings. Accepting the award for the library was Samantha Hathaway, an employee of the library.

The second award was presented to Nancy Proesel, who lives in the DeKalb area. Oleckno stated, "Nancy continues to make numerous contributions to improving DeKalb's environment. "She sponsors daily segments on WNIU radio that provide timely messages on the environment, including statistics on climate change and other contemporary environmental issues." He further noted that she is a volunteer member of many community organizations, including DeKalb County Community Gardens, where she serves as a board member and supports sustainable food growing practices. It was further noted that Nancy also played a key role in coordinating and organizing DeKalb's first Green Living Festival that promotes ecological awareness and environmental sustainability in the community. Personally, Nancy and her family have

developed their home and property to support the environment by growing native plants and providing a wildlife sanctuary on a large prairie filled with trees and a natural pond.

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