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## **Urban Libraries Council Wins 2018 ASAE Power of A Gold Award for Leaders Library Card Challenge**

*The award recognizes the innovative and collaborative program that has brought library cards to almost three million school children*

WASHINGTON – The Urban Libraries Council has earned a 2018 ASAE Power of A Gold Award for the Leaders Library Card Challenge. The award distinguishes the association community's valuable contributions on the local, national and global levels, and is considered the association industry's highest honor.

"We are honored that the ASAE has recognized the transformational value of the Leaders Library Card Challenge," said ULC President and CEO Susan Benton. "For the first time, mayors and county executives, school superintendents and library executives joined arms to ensure the children in their cities and counties have access to all of the resources of the 21<sup>st</sup> century library – books, technology and knowledgeable staff."

"Congratulations to the Urban Libraries Council for implementing such a meaningful initiative to strengthen our society," said Sharon J. Swan, chair of the Power of A Awards Judging Committee. "Their initiative exemplified how no other sector helps improve lives as comprehensively as the association community."

The Leaders Library Card Challenge was launched in 2015 as part of President Obama's ConnectED Initiative. LLCC grew out of the belief that more intentional collaboration among chief elected officials, school superintendents and library directors could improve educational outcomes for all students, begin to close achievement gaps and create a framework for an integrated approach to education. The Urban Libraries Council has continued and expanded the program to include more jurisdictions and to positively impact more student outcomes. To

date, 105 North American Libraries have participated in the Challenge, and over 3 Million children have received library cards as a result of it.

### **About Urban Libraries Council**

Urban Libraries Council (ULC), founded in 1971, is the voice for public libraries and the force that inspires them to evolve. ULC creates the tools, techniques, and ideas to make ongoing improvements and upgrades in services and technology. ULC also speaks loudly and clearly about the value public libraries bring to communities, and secures funding for research that results in the development of new programs and services. And by serving as a forum for library leadership, ULC produces innovative ideas and best practices that ensure community impact.

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