

## **2013 CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS NEWS RELEASE**

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### **UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor Ray Cross Honors Huber Support Team**

**Chippewa Falls, WI** – Jill Hietpas, UW-Extension Regional Broadband Educator and Deb Erwin, Literacy Volunteers of the Chippewa Valley from the Huber Support Team are the recipients of the 2013 Chancellor's Award from the University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin-Extension. Jill received the Award for Excellence in Community Engagement and Deb the Friend and Advocate Award. Both were nominated for this award by the Chippewa County UW-Cooperative Extension Family Living Educator, Mary Geissler.

UW Colleges and UW-Extension Chancellor Ray Cross presented the award at the institutions' Chancellor's Awards Reception, Sept. 12, in Madison. The annual Chancellor's Awards recognize UW Colleges and UW-Extension partners, supporters and employees for their outstanding contributions to the quality of life in Wisconsin.

In giving the award, Cross praised Jill and Deb for working with Chippewa County Huber inmates in the county jail who face multiple barriers to finding employment, including lack of transportation to the nearest Job Center and lack of computer literacy skills needed for online job applications.

For the Sept. 12 event, the Wisconsin Legislature also presented a citation congratulating the 41 employees and four partners receiving awards, commending "their commitment to Wisconsin by providing valuable services that keep its citizens thriving and our great state moving forward."

Erwin has been an instructor with LVCV for the past 1-1/2 years. LVCV is a community-based literacy program that trains and supports volunteers to educate adults and their families, helping them acquire the skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency and function effectively in their roles as citizens, workers, and family members. For more information, please visit <http://www.lvcv.org>.

Hietpas is the University of Wisconsin-Extension Regional Broadband Educator in the Chippewa Valley (Eau Claire, Dunn, and Chippewa Counties) and works with the *Center for Community Technology Solutions* in Madison, WI to address the broadband infrastructure and outreach needs of Wisconsin communities. She teaches computer and technology skills to senior citizens, job hunters, community members, and special populations that want and need the skills to connect with family and friends or build skills to advance their computer knowledge in this digital world. For additional information, please visit: <http://broadband.uwex.edu/>.



Pictured (L to R): Chancellor Ray Cross, Jill Hietpas, Deb Erwin