

The Alabama Department of Archives and History awarded to Florence City Schools its only Local Government Records Commission award for 2013. The department gave only two awards for 2013, one to a state government agency and one to a local agency. Curriculum Director Billy Warren receives the local award on behalf of Florence City Schools.

Records commissions present 2013 annual awards

The State and Local Government Records Commissions have selected one state and one local government agency to receive their 2013 annual awards in records management and preservation. Recipients were chosen in April, and the awards were presented at the commission meetings on October 23. They honor accomplishments in records management and preservation during 2012.

The **Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA)** received the State Records Commission's annual award. Since its RDA was approved in 2010, RSA has created an internal RDA advisory board with representatives from all 15 divisions. Records liaison Dawn Ellis-Murray has attended an ADAH liaison training workshop and several records management webinars. RSA has written a 50-page records management procedures manual, identified vital records, drafted a disaster plan, and created a "warm site" in Mobile to store replicated vital records. It is redesigning its digital imaging program and has destroyed over 1,200 cubic feet of outdated records.



RSA records liaison Dawn Ellis-Murray (l) and CFO Diane Scott receive their award from ADAH director Steve Murray

The Local Government Records Commission presented its 2013 award to **Florence City Schools**. After Florence's two original high schools were consolidated in 2004, officials and alumni began collecting records and artifacts from their *alma maters*. Concurrently, staff of Brandon Elementary School, which was also closing, began collecting artifacts of all Florence elementary schools. In 2011, these materials were moved to the Burrell-Slater building, site of the former African-American high school. To renovate it into a museum, the city provided a new climate-control system, while Books-a-Million contributed shelving and other fixtures for exhibits. The school board painted the windows to block out ultraviolet light; a local interior designer handled the layout; and former high school students contributed free labor. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony last November, the museum is now open to the public.



Billy Warren, curriculum director for Florence City Schools, accepts the award from Mr. Murray

Nominations are still open for the commissions' 2014 annual awards. Guidelines are available on the ADAH website at: <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/officials/guidelinesnominationform.pdf>. For more information, contact ADAH Government Services Division staff at (334)242-4452 or records@archives.alabama.gov.