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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Waco Library Staffer Receives Prestigious Genealogy Award

Waco, Texas (November 30, 2011) – Bill Buckner, Manager of the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library system for the past 13 years, recently received the prestigious President's Award at the annual meeting of the Texas State Genealogical Society in Houston. He was cited by TSGS President Nancy Brennan for his contributions as a board member.

Brennan praised his work as a TSGS district representative, and the professionalism with which he and other members hosted last year's state convention, which was attended by more than 200.

She stated that Buckner is a highly effective public service-oriented genealogy reference librarian and manager of a highly respected genealogical research collection in Texas and beyond. The TSGS President elaborated on Buckner's work in the field of family history:

- He organized and leads the McLennan Co. Cemetery Interest Group, which inventoried 35 cemeteries in the county and will compile and publish them in the Central Texas Genealogical Society's *Texas Cemetery Records*.
- He initiated and hosts the annual Genealogy Lock-In (now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year) at the Waco Library. More than 240 visitors attended this year to hear topics ranging from Native American genealogy to Texas Confederate pension applications, and an Ancestors Road Show sponsored by the Lone Star Chapter of the Assn. of Professional Genealogists. The lock-in was expanded this year to electronically incorporate Austin's Texas State Library/ State Archive Commission's "Genealogy After Dark" event.
- For the past four years he has taught the Genealogy Merit Badge at Baylor University's Merit Badge College, leading close to 80 Boy Scouts toward obtaining this badge.
- He teaches Beginning Genealogy at the Waco Library four times a year, and recently taught a six-hour course in Abilene for the Big Country Library System, helping librarians to better assist their patrons in genealogy research.
- Buckner served as Chairman of the Texas State Genealogical Society's Book Awards Committee for the past two years, finding books that qualify for the program, connecting with authors, and writing book reviews for various professional journals.
- He is active in the American Library and Texas Library Associations and has served on a number of professional round table positions.

Buckner is a graduate of Southwestern University at Georgetown and holds a Masters degree in library science from the University of North Texas.

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