

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Moms Association Announces 2008 Medallion of Honor Recipient**

The Moms Association of the University of Illinois is pleased to announce that Robin Kaler has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2008 Medallion of Honor Award. Ms. Robin Kaler, of Rantoul, IL, will be recognized for her contributions at the 2008 Moms Weekend Kick-off Dinner on April 11th, 2008.

The Medallion award was created in 1966 to pay tribute to those individuals who, by example and services, have used their talents to enrich the lives of others. Two men and eight women were honored between 1966 and 1976. Since 1977, this award has been given to a woman affiliated in some way with the University of Illinois. Ms. Kaler was chosen from a number of excellent candidates as best representing the qualities to which the Medallion of Honor pays tribute.

Ms. Kaler received both a bachelor's and master's degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Illinois. Her professional affiliation with the University of Illinois began in 1989 as an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Journalism. She was later hired as a speechwriter for the chancellor and other cabinet members. She was appointed Director of Special Projects in 1998, and two years later began duties as Assistant Chancellor for Public Affairs. Ms. Kaler currently serves as Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs. While completing a master's in business administration at the University, she taught corporate communications courses, supervised graduate students' master's projects and assisted student interns with job interviews.

In addition to her work at the University, Ms. Kaler serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Champaign County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program; a member of the Project 18 Board of Directors; a former chair of the steering committee for Rantoul Habitat for Humanity; a former member of the Rantoul Village Board of Trustees; former board member of the Developmental Services Center and the Champaign County Crimestoppers. She is a member of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications and has lead media relations seminars for a variety of government and professional organizations.

The nomination and letters of support for Robin Kaler highlight her positive impact on

the Public Affairs office, the University and those whose lives she has touched. Nominator Cynthia Ashwill notes, "Robin cheerfully shares her remarkable knowledge and skills... committed to helping others achieve their full potential." Another supporter adds, "Robin's action extends far beyond the office. As a breast cancer survivor, she speaks with those who have been diagnosed with cancer to provide encouragement, and advice....She values and intentionally creates an honest, caring environment where success can be known." Another supporter said, "We could not have a better advocate for education or ambassador for the University. She truly understands the complexities of a major research institution and is able to articulate our work. Robin has helped many individuals form a very positive impression of the campus by the way she has represented the University."

The Moms Association is proud to bestow the Medallion of Honor on Ms. Robin Kaler at the Moms Weekend Kick-off Dinner on Friday, April 11, 2008.

For more information about the Medallion of Honor and the Moms Association, please visit our website at [www.uofiparentprograms.uiuc.edu](http://www.uofiparentprograms.uiuc.edu) or call the Parent Programs Office at 217.333.7063

The Moms Association at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, established in 1923, is believed to be one of the nation's longest-serving parent organizations. The Association supports programs, services and activities that promote the health, safety and well-being of the University community and serves as the parent liaison to the campus.

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