

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For More Information Contact:

Brodart Co.:

Dennis Keith | dennis.keith@brodart.com

Diamond Book Distributors:

Allan Greenberg | gallan@diamondbookdistributors.com

TheBookReportNetwork.com:

Carol Fitzgerald | carol@bookreporter.com



Photo Caption, from left to right: Gene Ambaum (Unshelved), Michael Martens (Dark Horse Comics), Cindy Boyle (TLA Exhibits Manager), Carol Fitzgerald (GraphicNovelReporter.com), prize winner Eduardo Zepeda from Weslaco Public Library, Maribel Castro (TLA President), Emily-Anne Schulte (Brodart), Allan Greenberg (Diamond Book Distributors)

Librarian wins \$20,000 Graphic Novel Library Collection at Texas Library Association's Annual Conference

AUSTIN, TEXAS --- April 18, 2011 --- At the [Texas Library Association's](#) (TLA) Annual Conference held in Austin, Texas, April 12–15, Eduardo Zepeda from Weslaco Public Library was the lucky recipient of the \$20,000 prize in the [Great Graphic Novel Library Giveaway](#), sponsored by [Brodart Company](#), [Diamond Book Distributors](#), and [GraphicNovelReporter.com](#).

[The Great Graphic Novel Library Giveaway](#) included more than 700 hand-selected graphic novels from [Diamond Book Distributors](#) as well as fixtures and furniture provided by [Brodart](#). The collection also featured the entire list of graphic novel titles selected for TLA's [Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List](#) and the American Library Association's (ALA) [Great Graphic Novels for Teens](#) list.

Zepeda, the very enthusiastic winner selected from a group of 20 finalists, said, "This is tremendous, as the books will be a great addition to our graphic novel collection. We look forward to sharing this prize with our patrons and seeing readers sitting on the couch reading and enjoying the books." Martin Mata, also from the Weslaco Public Library, shared, "The couch will be placed in the new learning commons, where we have a plasma TV and no seating

area for people to be able to enjoy it.”

“It has been wonderful to participate in this amazing offering for the library. Graphic novels are the perfect creative blend of art and story. Who can say how many people will be inspired, entertained, or become lifelong readers as a result of this giveaway? [Brodart](#) is committed to supporting libraries in this and all areas of their collections,” said Lauren Lee, [Brodart’s](#) Senior Collection Development Librarian.

“Over the past few days it was exciting to see librarians gathering in the booth to look through the books we had on hand. The continued enthusiasm for this growing format was confirmed as we heard again and again how graphic novels and manga are well circulated in many libraries,” said Carol Fitzgerald, Founder of [GraphicNovelReporter.com](#) and President of [TheBookReportNetwork.com](#). “We at [GraphicNovelReporter.com](#) took great pride in being part of this event.”

Allan Greenberg from [Diamond Book Distributors](#) said, “We congratulate the winner and are glad to have participated in this exciting giveaway.”

[The Great Graphic Novel Library Giveaway](#) was open to Texas public and school librarians. Twenty semifinalists were selected on Thursday evening, and the winning librarian was chosen on Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. Central time by Gene Ambaum, librarian and cocreator of the online comic strip [Unshelved](#). More than 6,000 librarians and library professionals registered to attend the conference.

[Brodart](#), [Diamond](#), and [GraphicNovelReporter.com](#) would like to thank all of the publishers who donated books for this giveaway, including:

Abrams Books
Archaia Comics
Bluewater Productions
Candlewick Press
Dark Horse Comics
Hachette Book Group
HarperCollins Publishers
IDW
Image Comics
Macmillan
Oni Press
Random House
Scholastic
Silver Dragon
Top Shelf Productions
Udon

About [Brodart Co.](#)

Since 1939 libraries have been able to turn to Brodart for everything from shelf-ready books to electronic ordering systems, high quality furniture and supplies. Brodart serves libraries from the Northwest Territories to the Pacific Rim, with facilities in the United States and Canada.

About [Diamond Book Distributors](#)

Diamond Book Distributors is a division of Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc., the world's largest distributor of English-language comic books and related merchandise. Diamond Book Distributors is dedicated to making a wide selection of graphic novels and other pop culture collectibles available to the book market.

About [GraphicNovelReporter.com](#)

[GraphicNovelReporter.com](#) is the newest website from [TheBookReportNetwork.com](#) (TBRN), which includes a group of six Internet sites featuring original content about books and authors. Since 1996, these sites --- led by flagship site [Bookreporter.com](#) --- have become the gathering place for a large and devoted audience of readers and book buyers. Monthly more than 1.6 million unique visitors come to the sites in the Network, making it the largest non-commercial group of book websites on the Internet. In addition, the company offers Internet design/development, marketing/publicity and resource services.