

**Deborah Richards
LV-CCLD Employee
of the Year**

The annual May West Las Vegas Library Gong Show is her brainchild. Last year, folks from three to 75 years old expressed their talents.

Every February, during National Black History Month, her energies bring artists, musicians and dancers to flock to the library in celebration.

Deborah Richards, assistant administrator of the West Las Vegas Library and the deserving recipient of the recent Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's "Employee of the Year" award, is a woman who loves working with people.

Library work has enabled her to reach out to thousands of different people and many different age groups.

She has been reaching out to them at West Las Vegas Library for almost nine years, bringing programs and activities that meet the community's needs.

"We've had so many programs," she says. "We had a wonderful 72 year old former Hollywood stuntwoman give aerobics class here. We have had people from the Community College come and give a photography class."

National Black History Month is a prime example of how her energy flows to others. "Every exhibiting artist donates a favorite dish. 'I get my friends and family to cook. And patrons always bring food too,'" she adds, saying how the celebration has featured local jazz ensembles, string quartets dance groups, in addition to the many artists featured.

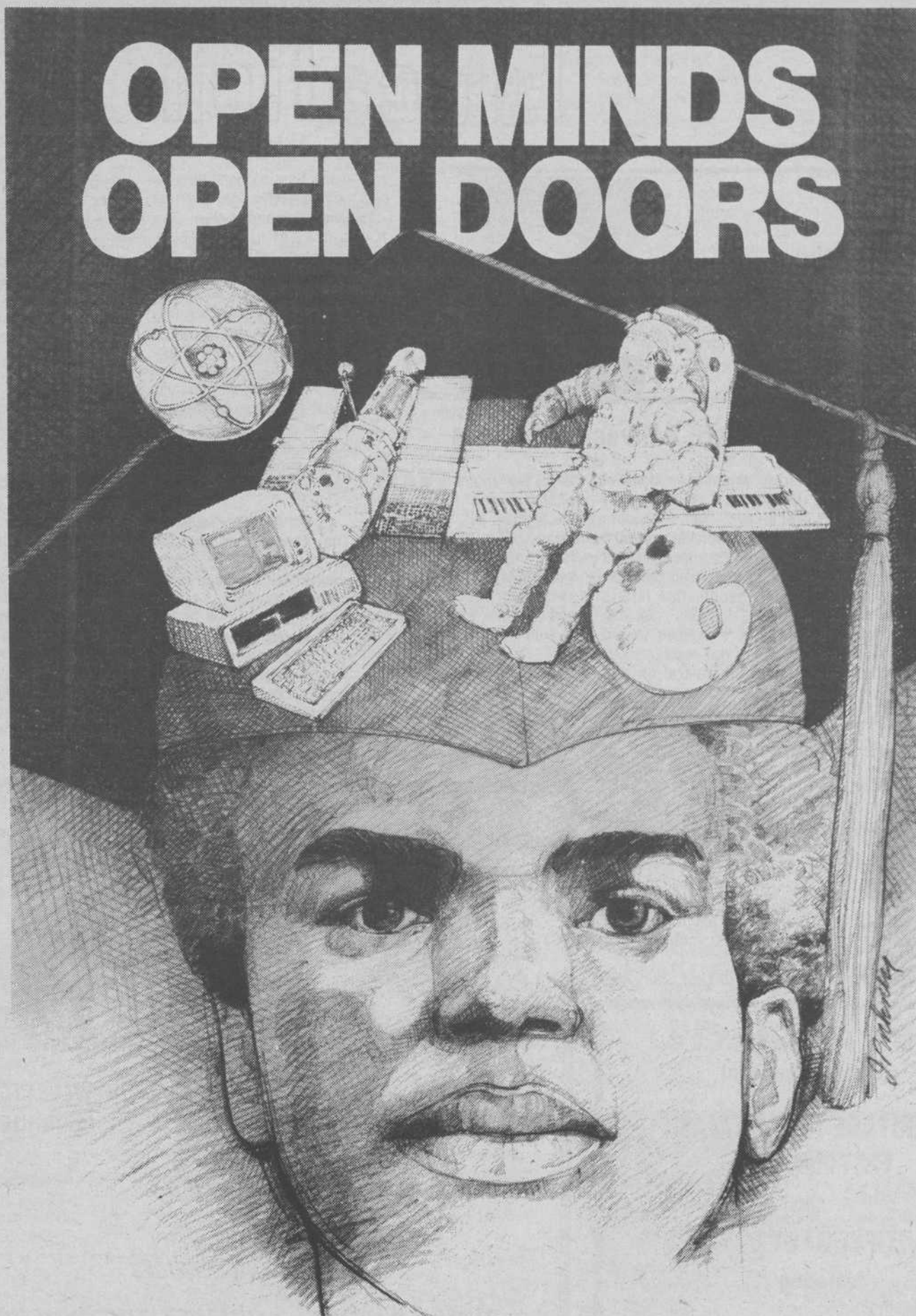
"Deborah is innovative, diligent and efficient," lauds Darrell Batson, West Las Vegas Library administrator. "And her ties with this community are very strong."

Richards initially did not intend to go into library work. As a student at Wayne State, she was in Pre-Law. However, across the street was a public library and when she was looking for a part time job, she inquired there.

"One thing led to another," and another led to working five years for the Detroit Public Library before moving to Las Vegas.

Any regrets? None, she says. "I love my job. I like working with people and I enjoy the opportunity to learn."

OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS



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