Northern Illinois University was honored with several awards by Illinois Association of Museums (IAM) at their annual conference on October 18, 2013 in Peoria. The non-competitive awards acknowledged a variety of educational programming, exhibits, promotional material, and special projects. The competitive awards honored excellence and dedication in the field including volunteers, professionals, and institutions.

The Jack Olson Gallery of the NIU School of Art won an Award of Merit for their exhibition Tagged: Exploring Modern Graffiti. The NIU Art Museum received an Award of Excellence for two exhibitions: Vice and Virtue curated by Peter Olson and Mapping: Measuring Across Place and Period..., organized by graduate students in the Museum Studies program in the Exhibition and Interpretation class taught by Jack Olson Gallery Director, Peter Van Ael. The NIU Anthropology Museum won the Superior Achievement Award for its student-produced exhibition, Trowels & Fair Trade: Revealing the Underground Railroad and Contemporary Slavery, curated by Ashlee Craig and Kweku Williams.

NIU was honored to be recognized yet again by an independent organization such as IAM. The Illinois Association of Museums is a statewide association of cultural organizations that includes art and history museums, arboreta, nature centers, zoos and aquariums, and planetariums. IAM is an agent for positive change in the museum community; providing advocacy, promoting best practices, and fostering the exchange of ideas. For more information about IAM, please visit www.illinoismuseums.org. More information about the NIU Museum Studies Program can be found at www.niu.edu/mstudies/index.shtml.

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Print quality images will be sent separately.

Image information below:

NIU Art Museum Director, Jo Burke (center) accepts an Award of Excellence from IAM Board President Dave Becker (right) and Executive Director, Donna Sack (left).