

# D211 POST: HEHS RETIREE ROBIN JACOBI RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT



*Robin Jacobi with Denis Quénelle, Deputy Cultural Attaché*

Robin Jacobi has been selected for induction into the French Republic's prestigious *Ordre des Palmes Académiques* (Order of the French Academic Palms) at the grade of Chevalier (Knight).

The *Palmes académiques* was founded by Napoleon in 1808 to honor education and is the oldest non-military French decoration. This distinction was initially awarded to outstanding members of the university community. Today, it recognizes the significant contributions of teachers through their teaching, scholarship and leadership over the course of their careers. It is also bestowed upon a select group of individuals who, though not members of academia, have demonstrated outstanding devotion to the French language and culture. The *Palmes académiques* is awarded by the Prime Minister of France, upon the recommendation of the Minister of Education.

The investiture ceremony took place on July 27, 2017 at Emmett's Brewery in Palatine in the presence of family, friends, and colleagues. It was presided over by Denis Quénelle, Deputy Cultural Attaché from the Consulate General of France in Chicago.

Ms. Jacobi is a long-time resident of Palatine. She retired in June 2016 from Hoffman Estates High School where she was a French/Spanish teacher and club advisor for over 28 years. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she has been president and secretary of the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French and served on its executive council for 20-plus years in various capacities. Among the many activities during her tenure as president, the most important are transitioning the organization into the digital age, creating and

maintaining the group's first web page, and helping organize an international French teachers' conference in Chicago.