Press Release

Maria Ford, Director of the Hudson Area Public Library District, is the 2014 recipient of the Illinois Library Association Crosman Memorial Award.

The award recognizes the achievements of library workers who are new or relatively new to the field and encourages continued involvement in the profession. The award is sponsored by Mortensen Construction, and is presented in memory of Alex Crosman, director of the Peoria Public Library from 1974 to 1986. Crosman was instrumental in forming the Junior Members Round Table in Illinois.

Maria Ford became the director of the Hudson Area Public Library District in June 2012, a small district of 3700 people. In the short time she has been director she has created a new website for the library and written and received three grants, all while presenting multiple adult programs like book clubs and computer training and ordering and cataloging all adult books. As director Maria is of course responsible for building maintenance, and was faced in her first year on the job with replacing the heating and air conditioning unit, repairing the roof, and an extensive repair of siding on the exterior of the library. In her nomination, Olivia Husman stated that Maria “pursued her Master’s in library science with the intent to make a difference in a small library.”

The Crosman Memorial Award will be presented at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 12:00pm at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.