Press Release

Regina Townsend, Teen Services Librarian at the Forest Park Public Library, is the recipient of the Illinois Library Association Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award.

The award recognizes a librarian who has provided outstanding service to young adults in Illinois through innovative and dynamic programs and services that have instilled a love of libraries in teens and benefited the community. The award is presented by the ILA Young Adult Services Forum, sponsored by Sourcebooks, and honors the positive impact that Sharon Ball has on Illinois librarians and teens.

Nominator Alicia Hammond stats that Regina’s “work with teens is an incredible testimony to why libraries are still relevant and needed in the 21st Century.” Regina has maintained and improved a much needed space in her community for teens to feel comfortable. She has created opportunities for teens to enjoy themselves in a safe environment by facilitating innovative, trend setting programs such as live action game called “Silent Library” and an after hours Laser Tag event in the Library.

Regina has created programs and clubs for teens to dedicate time to serving their community. One of Regina’s most notable accomplishments is her Me:U Service Club which meets twice a month. The Club has planned and completed service projects such as a winter glove drive, a community fitness day, a Breast Cancer Awareness event, and a World AIDS Day Observation event.

Finally, Ms. Townsend has designed opportunities for Forest Park teens to learn and enhance their future with initiatives that brought college students and post-college graduates in to speak to teens. As nominator Marissa Tartaglia stated, “for some local teens, college didn’t seem like a necessary or realistic destination”, but Regina’s programs have made college seem like an attainable goal to the participants. Regina Townsend’s exemplary programming, service clubs and mentoring make her a standout in teen services in libraries.

The Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award will be presented at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference The Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.