

Illinois Library Association  
33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401  
Chicago, IL 60654-6799

Phone: 312.644.1896  
Fax: 312.644.1899  
Email: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)

**Illinois Library  
Association**

## Press Release

**Amanda McKay, Director at the Helen Matthes Library in Effingham, is the recipient of the 2015 Illinois Library Association Librarian of the Year Award. The award recognizes a librarian's distinguished service and leadership in Illinois libraries. The award is sponsored by Sikich.**

Amanda McKay has served as director of the Helen Matthes Library since 2011. During that short tenure she has raised over \$1.5 million towards the renovation of a former bank building to help realize the decades-long dream for a new library for Effingham.

Amanda has also demonstrated a can-do spirit. The Helen Matthes Library's funding situation did not allow for a Project Manager for their renovation project and Amanda has ably stepped forward to serve in that role as well.

Along the way she has demonstrated that she has a keen vision of how to build a team. While she devoted the necessary time to fundraise and manage the renovation project, Amanda also leaned into her wonderful staff and challenged them all to take ownership of their roles. The library's tremendous increase in circulation over the past several years is a testament to Amanda's success in this area as well.

Amanda has shown a commitment to sharing with the greater Illinois library community as well. She has served on both the ILA Nominating and the ILA Conference Programming committees, and has co-authored a chapter in the recently published "Creative Management of Small Public Libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

The Librarian of the Year Award will be presented at the Awards Gala held on Friday evening, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, during the 2015 Illinois Library Conference in Peoria.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

**For Immediate Release**