



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

Anthony “Tony” Kierna of the Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) is the 2018 recipient of the Illinois Library Association’s Reference Services Award. The award recognizes an Illinois librarian or institution that exemplifies excellence in providing assistance to library users as they seek and use information. This award is sponsored by Ancel, Glink.

Tony has given so much to the Schaumburg Township community in his years of service as the Genealogy Coordinator for the library. Since 1997 he has been instrumental in developing STDL into a powerhouse of genealogical research and service. He has helped countless individuals discover valuable information about their personal histories and families that make real differences in their lives.

As an influencer of genealogy practice throughout Illinois, Tony has embraced radical new technologies, methodologies, and electronic resources in order to serve patrons, who come to him from all across Chicagoland with their toughest questions. In 2008, he transitioned his popular paper newsletter into the blog, Genealogy with Tony (<https://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com/>). Over the past few years, he has led the library in creating screencast trainings of genealogy research tools. These recorded trainings allow patrons to gain additional skills they need to deepen their research practice and has increased the libraries reach within the community.

In January 2018, Tony connected with the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project and began videotaping personal narratives of local American war veterans to add to the national archives. In recognizing opportunities like this, combined with his out-of-the-box-thinking, and personal hands-on approach, Tony has done a tremendous service to

library users and his colleagues by taking the mystery out of genealogy research and making it accessible to all.

The Reference Services Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, October 9, during the 2018 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Peoria. The luncheon starts at 12:00 noon.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release