



**ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Because Libraries Matter

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## Press Release

**The Illinois Library Association (ILA) announces Jeffrey Merino, as the 2020 Valerie J. Wilford Scholarship Grant for Library Education winner. The Valerie J. Wilford Scholarship is in honor of Valerie Wilford (1939-2016), teacher and mentor to hundreds of librarians who made significant impacts in school librarianship, multi-type libraries, and resource sharing. The award is supported by the Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund and is granted to those in pursuit of education in librarianship, including classes, webinars, seminars, or conferences.**

Jeffrey Merino is currently pursuing his Master of Library Science degree at Sam Houston State University. He will use the grant money for a course titled Digital Technology for the School Librarian. By completing this class, he will be able to have a better understanding of how access to information allows K-12 students to develop critical thinking skills. Jeffrey is able to apply what he has learned during this course to his daily classroom instruction at East Maine School District 63. During his time working and completing coursework, he has maintained a 4.0 GPA.

The Valerie J. Wilford Scholarship recipient will be recognized at a ceremony that will be held in conjunction with the 2020 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, which will take place virtually in October.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release