



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

The Legislative Development Award is named for Robert R. McClarren, the first director of the North Suburban Library System. In light of that, we are pleased to announce that Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) is the recipient of the 2022 Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award.

In the 33 years since the award was implemented, this is the first time the Illinois Library Association's Public Policy Committee designated an organization rather than an individual to receive the award. RAILS was selected from an unusually crowded field of nominees in recognition of their work to "inspire, develop, and advocate for legislation to shape, support, and foster Illinois library development."

PPC recognizes the time and energy RAILS puts into establishing relationships with the legislature and providing informational support and other resources to member libraries. With this support, many libraries were able to deliver a higher level of services to Illinois residents, particularly students, particularly during the pandemic. As noted by their nominator, specific actions include:

- Drafting language for library legislation which benefits Illinois libraries
- Being an articulate spokesperson on behalf of Illinois libraries with the Secretary of State, General Assembly members, and Congressional delegation members
- Embodying by example the highest standard for citizen initiative in the shaping of the laws governing Illinois library development.

Congratulations to RAILS, its board, staff, and volunteers on your achievements!

The Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award will be presented at an Awards Ceremony during the 2022 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 18-20, 2022, in Rosemont, IL.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release