



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

Susan McBride, Senior Adult Services Assistant at the Hinsdale Public Library, is the 2022 recipient of the Illinois Library Association’s (ILA) Alexander J. Skrzypek Award. The award is given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of library services for people with print or other disabilities in Illinois.

McBride started her work with library patrons with disabilities in 2017 when she spearheaded a Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC) at the Hinsdale Public Library. Next Chapter Book Clubs are community-based book club programs for adolescents and adults with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual or developmental disabilities. McBride’s work starting and maintaining this group has created a valuable social and emotional learning activity for adult patrons with disabilities in the Hinsdale community. The group continues to meet regularly, and there are big plans to expand: McBride is reaching out to other local NCBCs to jointly read a book by author Liz Neal; after which, Hinsdale will invite the author to speak (virtually) to all of them during a joint social get together.

However, McBride’s contribution to the field of library services to patrons with disabilities has gone much further than this important club. Her work with this group expanded into the formation of a “Next Chapter Social Club (NCSC),” which recognizes the importance of a social and community outlet even for those who cannot attend a book club. McBride’s work with the NCSC was highlighted in the ALA Press book *Library Programming for Adults with Developmental Disabilities*.

McBride is tireless in her support of patrons with disabilities. Most recently, she started a new book collection at the Hinsdale Public Library to serve NCBC participants, other adults with disabilities, adults learning to read, and ELL learners. McBride was not satisfied with the traditional publishing name for similar collections – “high interest/low level” – so her efforts mean that the Hinsdale Public Library now hosts an “Ultra Readable” collection that will be expanding in the future.

The Alexander J. Skrzypek 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