



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) announces Lizzi Ogle, Youth Director at the Tremont District Library in Tremont, Illinois, as the 2023 Crosman Memorial Award for New Library Workers Winner. The Crosman Memorial Award for New Library Workers is named in memory of Alex Crosman, director of the Peoria Public Library at the time of his death in 1986. The award recognizes the achievements of library workers who are new or relatively new to the field and encourages continued involvement in the profession. Other awards honor those who have accomplished a great deal over a long period of time; this award honors someone who has accomplished a great deal in a short time. This award is sponsored by Dominican University SOIS.

Lizzi Ogle began her journey at Tremont District Library as a volunteer and was promoted to a paid student worker. In 2020, after a state-wide search for a Youth Director, Ogle emerged as the successful candidate and began her professional librarian journey. Despite starting her position during the pandemic, Ogle utilized her creativity and passion for her patrons to develop programming while at a distance. A parent remarked in the nomination that their child participated in one of Ogle's virtual reading clubs, and it sparked a love of reading that helped bridge the challenges of remote learning. As the library re-opened once pandemic restrictions were lifted, Ogle continued to bolster programs and offerings from the Youth Department with the assistance of her team. They regularly host an average of 15 well-attended programs each month that attract youth of all ages.

In her brief time as Youth Director, Ogle has earned the praise of many across her community, from her library director and board president to local parents and teachers.

Ogle's nomination was full of stories that characterize her as an eager, committed, creative, and passionate librarian. Several nominators remarked on her ability to remember her patrons' names and establish bonds that inspire a passion for reading. As a nominator commented, Ogle has developed a Youth Department that serves the Tremont community and makes kids excited to visit the library.

The ILA Crosman Memorial Award for New Library Workers will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2023 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 24-26 in Springfield, Illinois.

For more information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release