



**ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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**Courtney Moore Selected as 2024 Recipient of the Illinois Library Association  
Young Adult Library Professional of the Year Award**

Courtney Moore, Teen Services Specialist at Addison Public Library (APL), is the 2024 recipient of the Illinois Library Association (ILA) Young Adult Library Professional of the Year Award. This award, presented by ILA and the Young Adult Services Forum, recognizes an Illinois young adult library professional who is making an outstanding contribution to library services to young adults in their community and beyond by creating and implementing library programs and services that identify and meet the needs of the teens in their community. The award is sponsored by Sourcebooks and honors the positive impact Sharon Ball has had on young adults and young adult librarians as she served as a consultant for the North Suburban Library System and beyond.

A member of Addison Public Library staff for nine years, Moore specializes in reaching teens with neurodivergence. She knows the importance of creating a space for all teens to feel safe and be seen. Therefore, she strives to make a real connection with teens through the innovative ways she makes the library a welcoming space. "When neurodivergent teens told us that our traditional volunteer program was too much sensory input for them, Courtney developed a new, more inclusive opportunity called the 'Care Team.' The difference was transformative for several neurodivergent teens and created another way for all teens to connect and give back at the library," wrote Elizabeth Lynch, Head of Teen Services.

While Moore has developed other successful teen events such as a writing program with 50 accomplishment-based button badges, Moore's impact is felt far beyond programming. "Courtney does not hesitate to advocate for teens based on her experiences with them. She brought the need of a Spanish-language manga collection to the attention of our Collection Development team. Manga and graphic novels are extremely popular in Addison and her recommendation of adding a Spanish language manga collection identified a language barrier to our popular materials we had not yet considered," wrote APL Assistant Director Brooke Sievers.

The strength of Moore's work is evident in the personal connections she makes with teens. Addison Public Library is across the street from one of the largest junior high schools in Illinois. At the end of each school day, 70-100 teens arrive at the library within minutes. Moore approaches this as an opportunity to positively engage with these young patrons. Several testimonials from teens reveal her impact. One teen noted, "When you first talk to Courtney, you already know that you can talk about whatever is happening in your life, and never feel judged for a second." Another wrote, "Courtney's always super welcoming, super compassionate, and overall someone we all love to see at the library!" Former teen patrons, now adults, often return to catch up with Moore and share the impact she has had on their lives.

The Illinois Library Association Young Adult Library Professional of the Year Award will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2024 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 8-10, 2024, in Peoria, Illinois.

For more information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

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### **About the Illinois Library Association**

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization that represents Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and serves as a chapter within the American Library Association. ILA is comprised of 2,000 personal and more than 500 institutional members, made up of public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, students, and library vendors.