



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

**Illinois Library Association
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**Indian Prairie Public Library Programming and Outreach Specialist Awarded
2025 Oberman and Rich Reaching Forward Conference Grant**

Chicago, IL –Kate Kresek, Programming and Outreach Specialist at the Indian Prairie Public Library, is the recipient of the Illinois Library Association’s (ILA) 2025 Oberman and Rich Reaching Forward Conference Grant, which is presented by the ILA Reaching Forward North Committee.

According to Amy Merda, Head of Programming and Outreach, Kresek “has brought numerous innovative programs to IPPL guests and fellow staff using information she gleans through her research and networking.” In the past twelve months Kresek has collaborated with other departments and local organizations to offer successful programs, such as a Volunteer Fair, Martin Luther King Day of Service event, Wreaths Across America exhibit, and a Spice of the Month. In the near future Kresek also has plans to offer a Trades Fair, traveling Science Center in the summer, and a collaboration with the Chicago History Museum. Merda says the Oberman and Rich grant for Kresek will “translate into more amazing opportunities for the IPPL

Community.”

Kate Kresek will receive free registration to the 2025 Reaching Forward North Conference, an overnight hotel stay, \$50 for expenses, and a framed certificate. The award will be presented at the Reaching Forward North Conference on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

About the Reaching Forward North Committee

The Reaching Forward North Committee coordinates program planning for the Reaching Forward North Conference with a focus on providing opportunities for library support staff to grow, learn, and connect with new ideas and colleagues.

About the Illinois Library Association

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a not-for-profit educational and professional membership organization that engages in leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries. ILA's membership includes more than 2,500 Illinois public, academic, school, and special libraries as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, students, library vendors, and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and a chapter of the American Library Association.

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