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Press Release

Becca Boland of the Ela Area Public Library is the 2016 recipient of the Illinois Library Association's Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award. The award, presented by ILA and the Young Adult Services Forum, recognizes an Illinois Young Adult Librarian who is making an outstanding local contribution in library services to young adults in his/her community by creating and implementing library programs and services that promote a love of literature and/or instill positive feelings about libraries. The award is sponsored by Sourcebooks and honors the positive impact Sharon Ball has had on Illinois librarians and teens.

Becca is an active advocate for teens, and enthusiastically spearheads services such as sewing programs and other "maker" activities, a prom dress exchange, and school partnerships. Furthermore, she forms lasting relationships with teens and builds enthusiasm for working with them throughout her organizations. Becca is a leader in the field of teen services as a highly sought-after presenter, and has written articles and served on numerous committees. Her ideas have spread far and wide to other libraries, and her services to high school students during finals and passive programs have had an impact far beyond her community.

"Her inclusive and outgoing energy are contagious and she is able to build consensus around ideas without making people feel intimidated," wrote Leah White, Head of Popular Materials at the Ela Area Public Library. Kelly Durov, Youth Services Manager of the Northbrook Public Library, said, "She gives back to her profession by serving on many committees, while still maintaining a personal relationship with the teens in the communities that she serves, cultivating strong collections, and creating programs tailored to both the teens' needs and interests." Becca's iCraft programs drew special attention from Tiffany Verzani, Library Director at the Elmwood Park Public Library, who said they "promote environmental awareness and imagination, as well as giving young teens a place to talk and share without peer pressure or judgment."

The Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon held on Tuesday, October 18th, during the 2016 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Rosemont.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release