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Press Release

Diana Brawley Sussman, Director of the Carbondale Public Library, is the 2017 recipient of the Illinois Library Association Librarian of the Year Award. The award recognizes a librarian's distinguished service and leadership in Illinois Libraries. The award is sponsored by Sikich.

Sussman has worked in Illinois libraries for almost 20 years. Before accepting the position of Director of the public library in Carbondale, Diana worked at the former Shawnee Library System as Director of the Southern Illinois Talking Book Center.

Troubled by recent events in our society, Sussman has transformed library service in Carbondale. Not only does she serve her community as a catalyst for change by being the driving force behind the Nonviolent Carbondale initiative, but she has also positioned the library to offer daily support for residents of the city by having a Social Worker on staff. During April she enacted Days for Compassion at the library by offering classes such as the Bystander Intervention Training for teens; instituted the "Human Library," where patrons spent time with a "living book" to learn about differing viewpoints and cultures.

Sussman is an active member of the Illinois library community. She has served on the Illinois Library Association Executive Board and the annual conference committee; has written extensively for the ILA *Reporter*, and presented numerous workshops.

The Illinois State Library has relied on her leadership as a member of the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, the Live & Learn Construction Grant Review committee, the ILEADU USA State Steering Committee, and as a presenter at many educational programs.

"I really can't think of anyone more deserving to be the 2017 Librarian of the Year. Diana has a deep understanding of and dedication to the Carbondale community, as well as the library community," stated Tina Hubert, 2016 ILA Librarian of the Year. "Because of Diana's concern and commitment, the world—or at least the parts she influences—is a better place."

"I am pleased to congratulate Diana Sussman on being awarded the Librarian of the Year," said Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White. "Her previous involvement in the Illinois State Library's continuing education programs and her contributions to the library community have made her a leader in transforming library services and an excellent candidate for this award."

The Librarian of the Year Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon held on Tuesday, October 10, during the 2017 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Tinley Park.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release