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## Press Release

**Lynette Pitrak of the Downers Grove Public Library is the 2017 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 Lynette Pitrak has had on Illinois librarians and teens.**

Lynette is a strong advocate for teens in her library and throughout the community. She is actively involved in outreach with her local schools, which includes activities such as the wildly popular Blind Date with a Book program, sharing her book reviews on the middle school blog and using mixed media projects with multi needs classrooms. Lynette shares her passion for her work through presentations at state and national conferences and she has contributed to publications such as School Library Journal and VOYA. Her grant writing skills led to the creation of "View from the Director's Chair" a program where teens were able to utilize library technology to create films that were screened to the community. The success of this program has led to the creation of spin off programs using sound recording and film equipment available in the library.

"Her support and outreach with our school instills positive feelings about libraries, creating a strong connection between our schools and public library," wrote Aimee Yu, Downers Grove North Library Department Chair. Nicole Wilhelms, Adult & Teen Services Manager at Downers Grove Public Library talked of Lynette's programs such as Girl Who Code, sharing "She has dramatically improved our teen services through innovative use of new resources, generous partnerships with local collaborators, and a deep personal commitment to the needs of young adults." Katie Richert, Assistant Head of Youth Services at Bloomingdale Public Library spoke of the success of the Blind Date with a Book program, saying, "This event was so popular at one middle school that they had to take registrations! All these happy teenagers because of Lynette's hard work!"

The Young Adult 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.