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## Press Release

**Pattie Piotrowski is the 2016 recipient of the Illinois Library Association (ILA) Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award. The award, presented by the ILA Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries Forum, recognizes an Illinois librarian who is making an outstanding statewide contribution to academic or research librarianship and to library development. The award is sponsored by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois.**

Currently the President of ILA, Piotrowski has been an active ILA member since 2003 and has distinguished herself through her service to IACRL, ILA and the Illinois library community in general. As an active member of IACRL, Piotrowski participated in conference planning duties for three IACRL conferences, including serving as chair of the 2014 conference planning committee. She also served on the IACRL executive board from 2012-2015, as Vice President/President-Elect (2012-2013), President (2013-2014) and Past President (2014-2015). During her tenure with IACRL, Piotrowski worked to create a more engaged and tangible environment for its members, including bringing the ILA lobbyist to speak at the IACRL Luncheon at the annual ILA conference, coordinating the IACRL booth at ILA conferences, and coordinating new-member recruitment efforts.

In August 2016, Pattie will assume the position of University Librarian and Dean of Library Instructional Services at University of Illinois at Springfield. She was formerly the Assistant Dean for Public Services at The Illinois Institute of Technology's Paul Galvin Library. In both her professional service and her work, Piotrowski strives to create environments in which everyone—from students to administrators—not only feels welcome but also understands that they are part of a community that is dedicated to the enrichment of students' lives. Piotrowski emphasizes that at higher education institutions, faculty, staff and administrators should be constant in their connection to their communities by remembering the significance of their roles. As she stated in a recent article on the IIT website, "I pose the question, 'Is it really just a job? Do you believe in the mission of this university?'"

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

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release