



**ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Because Libraries Matter

Illinois Library Association  
560 W. Washington Blvd., Suite 330  
Chicago, IL 60661-2692

Phone: 312.644.1896  
Fax: 312.644.1899  
Email: [ila@ila.org](mailto:ila@ila.org)

## Press Release

**Randi Carreno, a Teen Services Librarian at the Fountaindale Public Library District, is the 2023 recipient of the Illinois Library Association's (ILA) Young Adult Library Professional of the Year Award. This award, presented by ILA and the Young Adult Services Forum, recognizes an Illinois Young Adult Library Professional who is making an outstanding contribution in library services to young adults in their community and beyond by creating and implementing library programs and services that identify and meet the needs of the teens in their community. The award is sponsored by Sourcebooks and honors the positive impact Sharon Ball has had on Illinois librarians and teens.**

A member of the Fountaindale Public Library District staff for 19 years, Carreno has spent the last 15 years in her role as Teen Services Librarian. Throughout this time, she has been instrumental in expanding library services for teens. While Carreno was once the library's only Teen Services Librarian, she now supervises two part-time staff members along with one full-time employee. Together, Carreno and her team average 18 programs per month for tweens and teens, including STEAM labs, Dungeons & Dragons games, and several volunteer events. She also works with Bolingbrook Pride to host monthly meetups for teens who identify as a member or ally of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Her dedication to library services for teens is also reflected in the creation of the Vortex, the library's teen space. Carreno worked tirelessly to ensure that the area was both a welcoming and useful space for young adults. Her vision led to a change in the original design, which is now a vibrant community spot. To highlight the Vortex, Carreno partners with local middle schools to hold library tours for every student from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>

grade at the start of the school year. “Her ability to connect with teens and build trust has been critical in expanding our reach and impact in the community,” wrote Paul Mills, Executive Director, and Nancy Korczak, Deputy Director, Fountaindale Public Library District.

Carreno also knows the importance of reaching teens outside of the library, so she created K-Talk, a YouTube series where she and Studio Services Assistant Manager Adriana Alvarez discuss Korean dramas, books, and music. Teens can also find her sharing her favorite YA books on the library’s Teen Book Babble YouTube series. Carreno performs monthly school visits, as well. “Randi is a constant fixture at our middle schools and high school, engaging students with book talks and crafts while steadfastly promoting library services. She actively engages parents, teachers, and students both inside the library and out in the community. Her care and determination ensure students of all abilities, backgrounds, and identities feel included and respected,” wrote Debra M. Dudek, Adult and Teen Services Manager, Fountaindale Public Library District.

The ILA Young Adult Library Professional Year Award will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2023 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 24-26 in Springfield, Illinois.

For more information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release