



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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**Selicia Applegate Selected as 2024 Recipient of the Crosman Memorial Award
for New Library Workers**

The Illinois Library Association announces Selicia Applegate, Makerspace Coordinator at the Palatine Library District, as the recipient of the 2024 Crosman Memorial Award for New Library Workers. The Crosman Memorial Award for New Library Workers is named in memory of Alex Crosman, director of the Peoria Public Library at the time of his death in 1986. The award recognizes the achievements of library workers who are new or relatively new to the field and encourages continued involvement in the profession. Other awards honor those who have accomplished a great deal over a long period of time; this award is to honor someone who has accomplished a great deal in a short time.

Selicia Applegate joined Palatine Library District in November 2015 as a part-time technology associate. Through her hard work and passion for helping others, she was promoted to makerspace coordinator of the library's newly built Workshop Lab in 2022. During her eight years at the library, Applegate has spearheaded several efforts to build community and embraced the connection and creativity of technology.

Early in her career, Applegate observed a need for support materials in other languages and quickly worked alongside her colleagues to provide a variety of resource brochures

translated into Spanish. These same efforts have carried over into the way she develops programming and events in the Workshop Lab to meet all users at their skill level and empower them to get involved in the space. Through Applegate's leadership, the Workshop Lab has transformed to welcome members and inspire them to create personal projects through learning new technologies.

Applegate regularly hosts programs in the Workshop Lab that teach a wide array of technology and design skills along with easy ways to upcycle materials and tap into local creators. A notable community project of hers was the creation of an 8-foot by 7-foot freedom quilt made entirely in the Workshop Lab with donated materials and equipment. This program ran in February 2023 in honor of Black History Month and culminated in an unveiling at the 360 Chicago's Juneteenth Celebration event in the Hancock Center.

The Illinois Library Association Crosman Memorial Award for New Library Workers will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2024 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 8-10, 2024, in Peoria, Illinois.

For more information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

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About the Illinois Library Association

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization that represents Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and serves as a chapter within the American Library Association. ILA is comprised of 2,000 personal and more than 500 institutional members, made up of public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, students, and library vendors.