



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **2020 Michigan Library Award Winners Announced**

LANSING – Three of the leading statewide library advocacy and service organizations - The Michigan Library Association (MLA), the Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME), and the Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA) are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Michigan Library Awards.

The Michigan Library Awards are awarded annually and are considered the state's highest honors within the library community. The 11 awards celebrate the excellence, accomplishments, dedication and service of library staff, trustees and supporters in the Michigan library community.

This year, the award ceremony was hosted by author and musician Wesley Stace, with special guest appearance by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on Thursday, October 29 on Facebook Live. Unveiled during the ceremony were the winners of the Rising Star, Frances H. Pletz Award for Excellence in Service to Youth, Heart of a Champion, Library Support Staff of the Year, State Legislator of the Year, Federal Legislator of the Year, Public Librarian of the Year, Academic Librarian of the Year, Citation of Excellence, Above and Beyond, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Each recipient was chosen through peer review for their outstanding achievements within specific categories as follows:

#### **HEART OF A CHAMPION**

**Susan Matthews, Friends of Troy Public Library**

The Heart of a Champion Award recognizes a library supporter who has shown an exceptional commitment to libraries or the library profession through continued advocacy and supporting or providing funding for their local library.

#### **MAME CITATION OF EXCELLENCE**

**Kathy Lester, Advocacy Chair of the Michigan Association of Media in Education**

The Citation of Excellence celebrates and honors those who have championed school libraries through volunteerism, administrative support and advocacy.

**FRANCES H. PLETZ AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO YOUTH**

**Stephanie Reinhardt, Librarian at the Auburn Area Branch Library, Bay County Library System**

The Frances H. Pletz Award for Excellence in Service to Youth is given annually to a Michigan library staff person who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of library service to youth throughout their career.

**LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR**

**Jermaine Jackson, Assistant Librarian at the Kalamazoo Public Library**

The Library Support Staff of the Year Award recognizes a support staff professional who goes above and beyond to provide support at their library and who has advanced and strengthened the image of support staff.

**PUBLIC LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR**

**Jessica Trotter, Collection Development Specialist at the Capital Area District Libraires**

The Public Librarian of the Year Award recognizes outstanding library professionals that inspire people, provide innovative library service to their community, promote collaboration among libraries, and show evidence of personal and professional achievement as well as initiative and creativity.

**RISING STAR**

**Betty Adams, Library Director at the Leanna Hicks Public Library of Inkster**

The Rising Star Award recognizes a librarian who shows leadership early in their career. While new to the profession, winners of this award are forward-thinking, expand the role of librarian and move libraries into the future.

**ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR**

**Sandra C. McCarthy, Professional Faculty and Librarian at the Bailey Library, Washtenaw Community College**

The Academic Librarian of the Year recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of a librarian or library administrator and their contributions to their institution and academic libraries within the academic year 2019-2020.

**ABOVE AND BEYOND**

**Clare D. Membiela, Library Law Consultant at the Library of Michigan**

The Above and Beyond Award recognizes an individual who has selflessly served Michigan Libraries and library staff and has gone above and beyond in service to the profession.

**STATE LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**

**State Senator Wayne Schmidt, of the 37<sup>th</sup> State Senate District**

The State Legislator of the Year is awarded to elected officials in recognition of outstanding leadership in promoting libraries and supporting legislation or amendments that advance our legislative goals.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR**

**Congressman Andy Levin, Representing Michigan's 9<sup>th</sup> District**

The Federal Legislator of the Year is awarded to elected officials in recognition of outstanding leadership in promoting libraries and supporting legislation or amendments that advance our legislative goals.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Kevin King, Head of Community Engagement at the Kalamazoo Public Library**

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a deserving librarian for their distinguished service to the library profession over the course of their career. Throughout their career, winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award have sustained a strong and consistent body of work, demonstrated leadership in their community and in the profession -mentoring and empowering library staff, providing innovative service to their community and enhancing the image and visibility of the library. They promote collaboration among libraries and librarians and have been a catalyst in special areas such as intellectual freedom, library innovation, outreach, and equity, diversity and inclusion.

“These award recipients represent some of the most outstanding individuals in the Michigan library community,” said Deborah E. Mikula, Executive Director of the Michigan Library Association. “In the past, the three host organizations have worked independently, but this year, our united efforts have added a whole new dimension to showcasing library staff from all library types. We couldn’t be prouder of the collaboration.”

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*The Michigan Library Association (MLA) is Michigan's oldest and largest library association. For close to 130 years, MLA has led the advancement of all libraries through advocacy, education and engagement. MLA's membership is comprised of 1,900 individual and organizational members from public, academic, school, tribal and special libraries. For more information visit [mibraries.org](http://mibraries.org).*

*The Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) is the statewide association for Michigan school librarians and those interested in K-12 media center topics. MAME has been providing professional development and advocating at the state and national level to provide a voice and stronger presence for K-12 library professionals. For more information visit <http://www.mimame.org>.*

*The Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA) is the professional association of academic library staff and libraries in Michigan. MiALA's work entails providing professional development, serving as a catalyst for collaboration, and promoting the value and contribution of academic librarians. For more information visit <https://miala.org>.*