

Celebrating Our System Directors!

A Heartfelt Expression of Our Gratitude



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

First Tuesday Topic: Stress & Mental Health

So many weeks have focused on the stress of current times. We decided it might be nice to flip that conversation and focus on how amazing all of you are.

Here are some of our thoughts...



John Thompson

What more can we say? He is the WLA Librarian of the Year for a reason, and he deserves it. No matter how busy he is or how much is on his own very large plate, he always manages to find time to help the rest of us.



Steve Ohs

Steve O. brings a lot of skill to the table, but we most value how precise and detail-oriented he is.



Bradley Shipps

Bradley is special because she is savvy and smart, but she is always good for a laugh. She keeps things fun, which is so important at times like these.



Tracy Vreeke

Tracy is nothing short of amazing. Her extensive experience in a non-library service industry brings a unique, outside the box perspective that we really need. We are so glad she joined us in Libraryland.



Sherry Machones

No one is more passionate and puts more heart into their job than Sherry. She puts her everything into... well, everything.



David Kranz

David is such a welcome addition to this fine group of people. Always conscientious and caring, he is the very definition of “team player.”



Barb Brattin

There is a reason why Barb's library won the Library of the Year award– it was Barb's leadership. She cultivates a culture of connection and community.



Jeff Gilderson-Duwe/Clairellyn Sommersmith

This combo brings a one-two punch! Neither is afraid to express an alternative idea or concept, which is a wonderful quality in a leader. They take conversations deeper than they would sometimes go, which takes us all farther.



Rebecca Scherer

Becky may lead one of our smallest systems, but there is nothing small about what she does. She is more quietly dedicated and offers a personal kindness that we all respect.



Martha Van Pelt

How do you describe Marty?
She shares her knowledge
from all parts of the country
with anyone who needs help,
in her unique, “Marty” way!



Marla Sepnafski

**Marla had one heck of a year,
but she exhibited such poise
and grace under pressure.
We are still amazed by her
composure and dedication.**



Steve Platteter

Steve P. brings so much knowledge and experience to his system. His system may be very small, but he brings a collaborative spirit to his work that forwards the equity mission of our entire state.



Steve Heser

Steve H. brings such a high level of professionalism to his job. The rules are all different in his county, yet he was able to jump into his role seamlessly. He brings stability and calm to the table.



Karol Kennedy

Karol's commitment to high quality customer service goes unsurpassed. She is eager to learn and always willing to apply new concepts if they improve the customer's experience.



Kristen Anderson

Kristen always seeks to understand. She brings a logical and levelheaded approach to her work, but her passion for library service always shines through.



Honorable Mention: Robert Nitsch & Staff

The staff at Monarch Library System has been on a roller coaster for a few years. We are grateful that such dedicated staff remain there to provide library services to the residents of their 4-county system. Thank you from all of us!

