GCPL & SJSU SCHOOL OF INFORMATION ANNOUNCE WINNER OF THE INAUGURAL INNOVATIVE LIBRARIANS AWARD

LAWRENCEVILLE, GA, March 7, 2019 — Gwinnett County Public Library and the San José State University School of Information have selected Stephanie Rawlins, Pike County Library from a group of five finalists as the winner of the 2019 Innovative Librarians Award. The award recognizes library science graduate students who put forward new ideas that improve libraries and library services.

Rawlins, Library Director at Pike County Library in Indiana, will receive a $1,000 cash prize for her work on implementing Virtual Healthcare at local libraries. Virtual healthcare has the potential to create better health care awareness, minimize hospital admissions, and better monitor long-term and post-hospital patient care all while being held in a local library branch.

Finalists

Stephanie Ann Rawlins, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (Winner)
Innovation: Virtual Healthcare

Dan Alexander, Emporia State University
Innovation: Freshman Digital Literacy

Carla Bywaters, School of Information at San José State University
Innovation: Now is the Time for 21st Century Programming!

Belinda Outwater, University of North Carolina Greensboro
Innovation: Early Literacy Community Partnerships

Carrie Norris, University of Southern Mississippi
Innovation: The Art and Wellness Initiative (AWI)

Nominations were blind-judged by public librarians and library and information science educators with years of frontline, managerial and administrative experience.

"We're thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to library science students," says Michael Casey, GCPL Director of Customer Experience. "This year's innovations were impressive and we're so happy that we can share them with libraries around the globe."

The award is open to all students who are currently enrolled and pursuing a graduate degree in Library Science, or who have graduated with an MLS or MLIS within the past two years.

For more information and to read submissions from all five finalists, visit innovativelibrarians.com.

About Gwinnett County Public Library

The award-winning Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) system was formed in 1996 after the dissolution of the Gwinnett-Forsyth Regional Library. For more than 20 years, GCPL has provided resources and services that enrich and inspire our community. The Library has 15 branches that offer free access to computers and Wi-Fi, classes, materials, and programming for people of all ages. In 2018, more than 4.5 million items were checked out at GCPL, more than any other library system in Georgia. In 2018, GCPL was recognized as a Top Workplace by the Atlanta-Journal Constitution. For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library programs and services, visit gwinnettpl.org.

About SJSU School of Information
Based in California's world-renowned Silicon Valley, the San José State University School of Information is a recognized leader in online education and offers entirely online master's degree and certificate programs. Graduates work worldwide in diverse career environments, such as user experience design, digital asset management, information architecture, electronic records management, information governance, digital preservation, and librarianship.

Media Contact
Dee Driver (GCPL)
770-822-5325
ddriver@gwinnettpl.org

Nicole Purviance (SJSU)
nicole.purviance@sjsu.edu