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Georgia Library Association - Paraprofessional Division Grants

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association Paraprofessional Division Grants

The Paraprofessional Division of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) provides grants to full-time library paraprofessionals to facilitate their attendance at the COMO conference. Each winner also receives an awards plaque and a free one-year paraprofessional membership in the Georgia Library Association. This year, five paraprofessionals were chosen for the grants, including Juline Berry, Ramona Clark, Sarah Gourley, Elizabeth McKinstry, and Angelica Torres.

Juline Berry is a paraprofessional at Forsyth Central High School. Her main responsibilities include supporting her media specialist and assisting the students in their daily needs. She is



always flexible in accommodating teachers with last minute requests, balancing classes, or utilizing laptops to meet student and teacher needs. She strives to support and help the entire school with whatever a student or

teacher may need from the media center. Juline is efficient, flexible, responsible, and a team player. She is invested in the school and building a strong and successful media program.

Ramona Clark is an assistant branch manager for the Clayton County Library System. Her responsibilities involve managing the Lovejoy Branch circulation desk, staff members, volunteers, and library adult programming. She

completes all her tasks with a positive uplifting attitude while considering better and more efficient ways of performing them. Ramona's commitment to excellent customer service, all while having fun, has won her the FISH Philosophy award. In addition, after two library performances were cancelled at the last minute, Ramona jumped in, and her fast thinking and reliable help satisfied hundreds of parents and their disappointed kids. Her experience and willingness to learn new things and methods has transformed her into a well-rounded supervisor, trainer, and co-worker.



Sarah Gourley is the circulation manager for the University of West Georgia. Her main responsibilities include library operating procedures, supervision, and service to the institution. She is hard-working, dependable, energetic, cooperative, and cheerful. As soon as you meet Sarah, you can detect that she is a



born leader. No matter what she is asked to do, she embraces it and handles the tasks efficiently and thoroughly. The students respond immediately to her warmth, charm,

helpfulness, and great sense of humor. She is very intelligent and intellectually curious. She is a person with high ethical standards and high expectations of herself. According to her supervisor, she is the employee every library dreams of having but rarely gets.

Elizabeth McKinstry is a library associate for the Gwinnett County Public Library. In the position, her focus is the customer. She is the front line, the main personal contact customers have with the library. Her main contributions are service



to her customers and team and her technology skillset. Elizabeth has shown herself to be dedicated to the library's mission. She has initiated successful new programs and advocates libraries in all her

encounters with the public. She challenges herself to go the extra mile and willingly seeks additional projects that build relationships with library visitors. She strives to give back to the Georgia library community. Elizabeth volunteers for GLA as chair of the Public Relations Committee. Elizabeth is truly helping people.

Angelica Torres is the young adult specialist for Middle Georgia Regional Library. Her eighteen year tenure with the library has provided her invaluable experience working in various library



branches and departments. Teen services is a new challenge for her and the Middle Georgia Regional Library. However, she has proven in only a few short months that she is ready to make a difference. Her welcoming personality and youthful nature allows teens to feel comfortable. Her creativity has turned the teen area into superhero central. There are murals on the wall, hero decorations, and programs to entice teens to participate. Angelica's innovative nature is instrumental to the library. She is constantly finding ways to make her department run smoother and her patrons' library experiences even better.

Congratulations to the 2015 Paraprofessional Division grant recipients!