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Georgia Library Association - 2019 Paraprofessional Division Grants

Rhonda Boozer
Clayton State University, rhondaboozer@clayton.edu

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

Georgia Library Association 2019 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 Georgia Libraries 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 Michelle Colquitt, Paula Williams, Lisa Pritchett, Rachel Atterbery, and Shauna Schaffer.

Michelle Colquitt is a library associate at Gwinnett Technical College. She excels in her ability to apply her knowledge of library services in ways that directly support the academic pursuits of the students at Gwinnett Tech. As one of the primary staff members interacting with students, she has a front line, person-to-person perspective. As one of just five team members of the library department at GTC, Michelle was a key participant and decision maker in the 2018 migration from the TLC ILS to Alma/Primo. She furthered her knowledge of advanced library service models by becoming the point person for Gwinnett Tech's participation as a pilot institution for the GALILEO-led implementation of the



OpenAthens authentication system. As a co-worker and team player, she is an independent self-starter, but also a strong collaborator. She is committed to making the library at Gwinnett Tech an accessible and inviting place.

Paula Williams is the administrative assistant for the Dorothy W. Hightower Collaborative Learning Center and Library at Gordon College. She primarily manages the office, which includes budget ledger, desk schedules, directing telephone calls, billing, registrations/travel, signage, and supplies for the library director and staff. She also works with students daily at the circulation desk, answering questions and assisting with research. Paula is very efficient in performing her assigned duties. Her artistic abilities are very helpful with



creating some of the library marketing tools. She is very personable and works well with the faculty, staff, and students. Every day is different with new challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities. She is key to keeping the library's daily operations running smoothly. She is always willing to assist in any way she can.

Lisa Pritchett is a library media assistant for the Davis Academy. The Davis Academy has a robust media/library program that allows her to move across two campuses serving students in Pre-K to Grade 8. Some of her duties include checking out thousands of books, teaching



media activities, cataloging resources for both campuses, collection development, engaging parents in special programs, managing the birthday book program, supporting author visits,

mentoring teachers in using digital learning tools in the classroom, running reports, barcoding, book clubs, educating students about summer reading programs, book fairs, and so much more! She has become a critical member of the Davis Academy community and they are very lucky to have her on the team!



Rachel Atterbery is the teen coordinator for the Camden County Library. Her position in the library requires her to oversee the young adult section of the library, create teen programs,

supervise teen volunteers, and make teen book recommendations. She makes contact with teens via emails to keep them up to date on programs and volunteer opportunities. She has organized a volunteer calendar and created monthly teen programs such as Study Sessions, Family Nights, and Game Nights. Rachael has

made great strides in building teen inclusiveness and making them feel at home in the library. She is always looking for new and innovative ways to involve the teens. Rachel is a wonderful employee and truly enjoys her job and that has led to an increase in teen involvement.

Shauna Schaffer is a library associate at the Cleveland Avenue Branch of the Fulton County Library System. As the only library associate at a very small branch her responsibilities are wide and varied. Demonstrating an incredible initiative and a strong dedication, she plans, promotes, and presents library programs for children and adults. She has established an after school homework assistance program at the Cleveland Avenue Branch for all age groups. Her hard work, customer service, and leadership skills have helped to create a more



productive branch team. She is consistently pleasant, tackling all assignments with dedication. Her interpersonal skills are exemplary and appreciated by her coworkers and library users. Shauna is reliable, competent, enthusiastic, and willing to learn. Wherever she sees a need, she works diligently to fulfill it.

Congratulations to the 2019 GLA Paraprofessional Division Grant winners!