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Wisconsin Library Association Awards:
Celebrating Excellence in Library Service

The Wisconsin Library Association is pleased to announce this year’s library luminaries, selected as outstanding for their contribution to libraries and librarianship:

- Citation of Merit: Dr. Lelan McLemore, retired director, Carroll University Library, Waukesha
- Special Service Award: Anthony (Tony) Driessen, WLA Lobbyist, DeWitt Ross & Stevens SC, Madison
- Trustee of the Year: Jim Backus, Trustee, Wisconsin Valley Library Service, Wausau
- Library of the Year: David A. Cofrin Library, UW-Green Bay
- WLA/DEMCO Librarian of the Year: Stephen Proces, Director, Neenah Public Library

Citation of Merit: Dr. Lelan McLemore

Though Dr. McLemore is not a librarian, his nomination supporters say, “...the library has been his great passion, and he has succeeded in creating a library populated with an excellent staff, state of the art library resources, and students and faculty that consider the Todd Wehr Memorial Library the center of academic life on campus.”

Special Service Award: Anthony Driessen

Tony Driessen serves WLA as a hired governmental affairs consultant but much of his work for libraries is pro bono. He receives the special service award because of his broad knowledge of and concern for libraries, his great familiarity with education concerns and
political issues, his principled approach to government decision-making and advocacy, and his collaborative nature.

**Trustee of the Year: Jim Backus**

Having served for 11 years on the Wisconsin Valley Library Service board, more than 5 on the WLA’s Wisconsin Library Trustees and Friends (WLT) board, as well other library-related volunteer positions, Jim Backus exemplifies excellence. He advocates for strong board leadership and helps other trustees develop the knowledge needed to serve effectively.

**Library of the Year: David A. Cofrin Library, UW-Green Bay**

Paula Ganyard, library director, and her staff have improved the user experience by using technology and a customer service ethic to support research and learning. Their improved marketing efforts have increased library usage and engagement of the students, staff and faculty. In addition to all these activities, the staff has worked to improve involvement in the Green Bay community, fundraising, collections, staff development opportunities, and the physical facilities. Ganyard and the library staff have worked hard to make sure the library is not only the physical center of the campus, but the heart of the university, as well.

**WLA/DEMCO Librarian of the Year: Stephen Proces**

Stephen Proces oversaw the Neenah Public Library building project twelve years ago and has continued “building” the library into a premier destination in the Fox Cities for programming and collections that appeal to all ages, boasting an annual circulation today of nearly 1 million items. Steve is highly respected by his staff and community leaders for his service innovations, as well as his generosity in mentoring younger librarians and creating a
working environment where staff is free to grow and experiment with new programs and services.

WLA congratulates each winner and celebrates their accomplishments at the WLA Conference awards banquet Thursday, October 25, 2012, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel La Crosse.

The WLA Awards program is supported by the WLA Foundation, through individual charitable contributions. The WLA engages, inspires and advocates for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin. The awards program is one way the association acknowledges the dedication of its members to provide exemplary library service to the people of Wisconsin.

For more detailed information on the accomplishments of this year’s award winners, please contact the WLA or view the longer announcement on the WLA Blog:

http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/wla-blog/entry/2012-08-31-wisconsin-library-association-awards-celebrating-excellence-in-library-service

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