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## **Maribel Castro Receives the Texas Library Association's 2018 Distinguished Service Award**

AUSTIN – Maribel Castro, director of technology and information systems at Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans, received one of the state's highest recognitions for librarians, the Texas Library Association's (TLA) 2018 Distinguished Service Award, which honors a librarian who demonstrates superlative leadership, and provides outstanding and continuing service to the library field.

While Castro currently resides in Louisiana, she has been an active TLA member for more than 17 years, dedicating countless hours in service to her fellow librarians. She was TLA President in 2010-2011, was a member of the Executive Board for three years, served on and chaired many TLA committees, attended the TALL Texans Leadership Institute and later served as a mentor, and was chair of the Texas Association of School Librarians, a TLA division. At the national level, she served as co-chair of the American Library Association (ALA) Presidential Advisory Committee, and participated in the ALA Leadership Institute.

Goal-driven and a big picture thinker, Castro navigated the creation and implementation of proactive library polices in Texas and the U.S. Her innovative ideas, sharp political skills and willingness to go more than the extra mile ensured that the association's products and services were of the highest quality. Castro is a natural leader and mentor who is passionate about how libraries advance literacy and life-long learning, and what TLA can do specifically to aid libraries and librarians.

Since her graduation magna cum laude from the University of North Texas with a Master of Library Science, Castro held several school library positions in Houston's St. John's School and in Lubbock ISD, before moving to academic libraries with a position at Lubbock Christian University (LCU). She continues to serve as remote electronic resources librarian for LCU in addition to her current job in New Orleans.

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### **About the Texas Library Association**

*TLA is the largest state library association in the United States with almost 6,500 members who work in public, school, academic, and special libraries. TLA offers a wide range of services, including advocacy, continuing education, research, and public relations. [www.txla.org](http://www.txla.org)*