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Jennifer Coffey Receives Texas Library Association's 2018 Librarian of the Year Award

AUSTIN –Jennifer Coffey, director of the Pflugerville Public Library was named the 2018 Librarian of the Year by the Texas Library Association (TLA). This honor recognizes a librarian who has provided extraordinary leadership and service within the library community over the past year.

Coffey has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, creating an innovative environment for library staff and users. Putting her passion for research and knowledge of technology to work, she brought local history groups and individual citizens together to create the growing Digital History Project. She worked tirelessly to preserve the Heritage House Museum, a historic building, bringing it under the purview of the library and expanding its hours of operation. And she introduced a unique partnership with the local animal shelter that resulted in more than 20 pet adoptions to date.

Working with the Friends of the Library, Coffey obtained funding for summer reading programs for all ages, a homebound program to take books to users unable to get to the library, a summer reading project for adults with intellectual and cognitive delays, and crafting activities. These programs attracted more than 30,000 participants in the past 12 months, a phenomenal achievement in a community of 60,000.

Coffey directed the development and construction of the Pfab Lab, the library's makerspace which is equipped with sewing and embroidery machines, kilns, a laser cutter, die cutting tools, movie making equipment, jewelry making tools, science and engineering tools, circuits, and robotics.

Under Coffey's direction, the library won the Texas Municipal League Award of Excellence in Libraries in 2015 and 2016, and has been named a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Certified Wildlife Habitat, and National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat.

By taking innovative leaps to improve her community, creating an open environment for her staff, and making connections within the community she has distinguished herself as an extraordinary leader Coffey received the prestigious Librarian of the Year Award plaque before thousands of cheering colleagues on April 4 during the TLA Annual Conference in Dallas.

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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