



**Mohawk Valley Library System
Outstanding Library Staff Award
2023 Nomination Form**

Framed Certificate + \$500 for Library Materials Identified by Bookplate(s)

Please answer the following 3 questions using this form. Make your answers descriptive and concise as you describe the contributions made to foster library services in your community. This written part of the application should be no more than 2 pages total. Please focus on activities that took place over the last 3 years.

You may add up to 2 additional pages of support materials – photos, publicity materials, news stories, etc. The application package may not exceed 4 pages total.

The award is open to any paid employee at an MVLS library. It is awarded to library staff, not library directors.

I nominate Letah Graff affiliated with the Fort Hunter Free

Library, for the MVLS Outstanding Library Staff Award

Submitted by Beverly Osborne
Submit nomination via email to kclingan@mvls.info by Friday, September 1, 2023

1. Please describe this staff member's history at your library.

Letah has been our Program Director since 2019. Letah's commitment to our library's mission is truly commendable. Her unwavering enthusiasm and innovative approach have significantly enriched the library experience for our patrons. Whether she is assisting visitors in their quest for knowledge, curating engaging displays that captivate our community's interest, or organizing thought-provoking programs that foster a love for reading, Letah consistently goes above and beyond.

2. What, specifically, did the nominee do to earn your nomination? Where and when did the activities and services take place?

Letah has consistently grown our Summer Reading Program from the first year. Our average attendance for SRP before Letah was 8 – 15 students. This year, attendance ranged from 59 (youth and adults) to an all-time high of 98 (youth and adults). This is particularly impressive because we are in a rural area and have a small base of regular patrons. Letah not only puts the programs together, but she also gets the word out to the community through a variety of ways, ensuring that the children in our area continue to read and learn throughout their summer school break.

3. How did your library/community benefit from this effort? How was it successful?

What sets Letah apart is not only her exceptional professional performance but also her remarkable rapport with children. She is known to extend her support during her personal time, readily stepping up to lend a helping hand at various library initiatives and events. Her willingness to dedicate both her working hours and personal time demonstrates a level of commitment that is truly inspiring.

Letah's passion for creating a welcoming and inclusive environment is evident in her interactions with library visitors. She possesses a rare ability to connect with individuals of all ages, making each interaction memorable. Her warm demeanor and genuine interest in the needs of our patrons have undoubtedly contributed to the library's positive reputation and growth.

Links to Facebook posts:

[Summer Reading Program Flyer](#)

[SRP Utica Zoo Mobile](#)

[SRP Dinosaurs](#)

[SRP Via Aquarium](#)

[SRP Willy Wonka](#)

[SRP Last Day](#)