

I Love My Librarian!

2018 Award

Joy Bridwell

Stone Child College Library
Box Elder, Montana

Nominator: Samantha Courchane

1. Please tell us in 2-3 sentences why your nominee should win this award. What sets them apart?

Joy is an incredible individual who put the library ahead of herself. She is always working hard to make the library a better place for all of its patrons. She plans a lot of programming so that everyone feels welcome when they walk in the door.

2. Please discuss how the nominee has helped you and/or others and made your experience of the library a more positive one. For instance, did the nominee assist you in a research project or enhance your students' learning experience?

I started working with Joy in the Stone Child College library when I was taking classes at the college. I was part of a work study program called NACTEP (Native American Career and Technical Education Program). At the time she was the library assistant and my supervisor. She trained me in all aspects of running the library efficiently and smoothly. She trained me in customer service so that everyone that entered the library is greeted and feels welcome. This is important because the library is located on an Tribal Reservation and serves as a academic and public library for the community of Rocky Boy. The library also houses a tribal archive that brings many community members in to access the materials. Joy loves her job and you can see that in the way that she works with everyone that comes into the library. She trained me in research techniques that not only help me, but so that I could help others that came into the library. I graduated from Stone Child College in 2011 and Joy was a part of that. She always pushed me to do my best. After I graduated from Stone Child I went to a four year university and whenever I needed help she was always there. Fast forward to 2016. I was volunteering at the library and I was offered a temporary spot as her library assistant because by this time she is the Librarian/Library Director. The job turned permanent and I am still working with her. I have learned a lot from her when it comes to running a library. I have learned a lot about grants, budgeting, community services, databases, consortiums, library association

memberships, community partnership, planning community events, programming and so much more. She is always teaching me new things that she learns at conferences and membership meetings that will make the library a better place.

3. How does the nominee make the college, community college, or university a better place? Please be specific.

Joy is involved in so many different committees, boards, organizations, and associations. At Stone Child College she sits on variety of different committees such as the Student Centered Campus/Retention committee which she has chaired for the last seven years. This committee holds events on campus that keep students, faculty, and staff engaged in events that take place at the college; Data/Research committee; Institutional Assessment committee which help us get re-accredited back in October 2017; and 4-Year Steering Committee - which helped get our first four year program in Teacher Education. She sits on so many committee because she likes to be involved in all aspects of the college. She plans community events every month that bring in patrons into the library and college. She has been planning community events since December 2014. She has planned thirty-four events that have brought 2136 people into the library. Some of the events have become annual because they are so popular. These events in Game Night in April, Halloween event in October and a Christmas event in December. She recently hosted a "Rocky Boy's Got Talent contest that brought in 150 people with thirty-four participants. She contacted local business and was able to gather gift cards and donations for prizes and door prizes. To hold on to these developing partnerships she sent out thank you cards to the business that participated. She partners with different departments at the college and throughout the community on different events. She is members of the American Library Association, Montana Library Association, and America Indian Library Association all of which provide her with training that help with professional development and library services. Everything that she learns she applies to the library and to the college. She works with students support services to provide library literacy training for all students, faculty and staff. She works with students that are preparing each year for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) student conference. She holds a class to prepare students for the Knowledge Bowl Competition of AIHEC. She prepares study guides for the students to use. She also sets up other training for other competition that take place at AIHEC. She and I work along side Elders on Campus Helen and Ethel Parker to create Cree Language materials for the college and the community. She also partners with elders in the community to add materials to the tribal archive. She is connected to so many different people and organizations that we get donations of materials all of the time.

4. How has the individual demonstrated leadership in the campus community?

Like I have stated Joy tries to be involved in all aspects of the college. She has chaired the Student Centered Campus/Retention committee for seven years. She is a member of other committees on campus. She never turns down anyone when they ask for her help or assistance. When she goes away to conferences and meeting she makes herself a spokesperson for the college. She is always relaying all the good things that the college and the library have been doing. She recently completed a one year term as President of the Tribal College & University Library Association where she worked with other tribal colleges to try to get funding for digital media. By the end of her term the American Indian College Fund had given a \$1000 grant to all accredited tribal colleges to go to the library. She used the funding to host a movie night on campus for the students, faculty, staff, and community. The remaining funding is being used to purchase education media for the library.

5. How has the library, and the nominee in particular, had an impact on students and faculty and the teaching and learning process? Please be specific.

Joy does library literacy classes for all subject classes that are offered at the college. She does some of the trainings in the classroom and others are done in the library. During the classroom session she goes over what resources and materials that the library has to offer. Since each classroom is equipped with a computer and projector she walks the students and faculty through navigating the library's website, catalog and databases. These session are usually done quickly. The library sessions take longer since a tour of the library is done. Joy explains all aspects of the library and where things are located. When the tour is done a scavenger hunt is given to the students and the first ones that are done win a prize. After the scavenger hunt is done then comes the database training portion. This is where Joy walks them through how to access all of the databases that the library has to offer. She also walks them through the different ways to cite the work that they find. Joy makes the faculty also take the training along with their students so if they have questions they can ask their teachers. Joy also does these tours and training sessions for the community. Joy works closely with the student services department when they have events for the students. During the Spring 2018 semester during a midterm madness event she and the library hosted a karaoke event in the foyer of the college. The students loved it. Students who have graduated from Stone Child College and have gone off to other colleges or universities will call or email her when they need help with research. Her services extend to students beyond the walls of the Stone Child College library. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are always asking her for suggested materials, what books they should read and where they can find materials. She is constantly updating the materials in the library and looking for funding to make sure that all patrons have what they want and need from the library. She also makes sure to purchase the textbooks that will be used each semester so that there is a copy in the library if the students need it. She makes sure that materials that the faculty need are stored in the

library especially media materials. She is very good at Interlibrary loaning materials for the faculty. She makes learning about the library fun and important. She tells all who participate in her sessions about why libraries are soooooo important and why they should always support their libraries.