



I Love My
Librarian!
2015 Award

Nominee: Shugana Williams
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston Campus
Perkinston, Mississippi

Nominator: Deanne Nuwer

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

Shugana Williams should win the "I Love My Librarian Award" because she exemplifies all of the qualities that a librarian today should possess. She is both enthusiastic and dedicated to her profession and is committed to excellence. She is a people-person who understands how important a good librarian is in bridging student/community involvement with the broader definition of a library that includes resources and personnel in an ever-changing world.

2. Please discuss how the nominee has helped you and/or others and made your experience of the library a more positive one.

Shugana Williams incorporates a holistic approach to her librarian position. She understands that the pursuit of knowledge is central in any endeavor undertaken by a librarian and that the librarian must bridge the gap between the client and attaining that knowledge. She does this quite well. She is thorough in the attention to detail in those academic pursuits. But, Ms. Williams extends her responsibilities beyond only the pursuit of knowledge in the library environment. She understands the importance of community involvement and her role as a facilitator in that engagement. For every project from the Mississippi Humanities Council grant-funded LaBat Project: Looking at Creole Culture along the Mississippi Gulf Coast to a History Channel grant-funded project assessing extant architecture in a Biloxi, Mississippi, neighborhood using 8th grade students, she has assessed the available academic resources and instructed the public/students about such topics as photography, data collection, digitization, and archival processing. Each of these projects and numerous others she worked on were successful because of her abilities to make learning fun and accessible as well as revealing other avenues of public/student engagement.

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

Shugana Williams makes Perkinston Community College a better place because of her infectious personality and desire to make the library available to every student, faculty member, and community person. From working with Perkinston Elementary students to leading tutorials, she strives to teach everyone about the marvels of a library and what a good friend a librarian can be.

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

Shugana Williams has demonstrated leadership in the campus community in several different ways. She serves on the Advisory Committee for the Mid-Gulf Coast Collaborative for Continuing Education in Archives Management for Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In that capacity, she helps to develop workshops explaining affordable archival workshops for communities across these states. As a representative on this board, she brings recognition to Perkinston Junior College. She also served as an advisor to the Southern Miss Society of American Archivists, Student Chapter. As president of the Society of Mississippi Archivists in 2012, Ms. Williams fulfilled a top leadership position in a state organization while representing her campus community. Besides the various offices she had held, Ms. Williams demonstrated daily leadership in the campus community. She conducts herself in a professional manner at all times and strives to help all who enter the library in a courteous effective manner. In doing so, she builds respect and trust for librarians both on her campus community and beyond. Students and the public carry forth that positive experience in a library and want to return. She makes the campus a better place to be.

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

Shugana Williams takes a global, cross cultural view when working with students and the public. She created a multi-national atmosphere in the library that was welcoming to all. For example, she facilitated a show and lecture called Six Degrees West. That exhibit plus an author talk, exposed the students and community to a different understanding of the Muslim world than is possible to learn from mainstream media. In a time of mistrust often fostered by ignorance, Ms. Williams revealed the possibility of empathy with fellow human beings in Africa and the Middle East and opened dialogues of conversation and connections between people of different faiths. Creating a mini-collection of library materials covering Middle Eastern culture, she provided learning opportunities through visual, auditory, and tactile resources for this event to be engaging to all who attended. The show and author talk was in the library where students, faculty, and the community could attend. This is the caliber of work that Shugana Williams maintains in all of her duties in the library.