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St. Joseph County Public Library receives statewide Programming Award

The St. Joseph County Public Library has been selected to receive the 2018 Indiana Library Federation (ILF) Programming Award. The ILF Programming Award honors and recognizes a library system or branch of a library system that has successfully provided ongoing, innovative and diverse programming designed to meet its community's needs.

The St. Joseph County Public Library (SJCPL) has served the people of St. Joseph County, Indiana, since 1889. With 10 branches located in urban and rural areas, SJCPL strives to reflect the diversity of the local population and meet the needs of all patrons. With a collection 479,139 volumes and 29,323 eBooks strong, the Library provides free and equal access to information and education. Annually, over 2 million items are checked out system wide. Engaging programs, classes, exhibits and author talks are offered for all ages.

From Studio 304 Digital Media Lab to smARTbox, SJCPL strives to push the boundaries about what it means to be a library. SJCPL serves everyone in their pursuit to learn, discover, and experience. The Civic Leadership Academy offered a series about fake news, the legislative process and solving community problems. SJCPL offers a series of community forums and author talks about an array of issues important to local residents.

SJCPL serves the library community by maintaining reciprocal relationships with other public libraries in the region, including Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library, Bremen Public Library and Plymouth Public Library. They have also forged a partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Hesburgh Libraries to be able to serve people in their community better.

The St. Joseph County Public Library has made it a goal to play a leadership role in their community through impactful programming. This effort has spanned all areas of the library and has made significant contributions in the areas of civic leadership, communications and dialogue, and community engagement. With a dedicated Community Engagement department, the Library has been able to hold larger events and reach more people.

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About: Indiana Library Federation is the statewide nonprofit association for academic, public, school and special libraries and the staff and volunteers who support them. Indiana Library Federation, the state chapter of American Library Association, provides professional development, awards, programs, member services and advocacy.

Indiana Library Federation leads, educates and advocates to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.

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