



March 7, 2019

David Perrotta
Network Division Program Specialist
(202) 707-0547
dape@loc.gov

Dear Mr. Perrotta and 2018 NLS Library of the Year selection team:

As Commissioner for Libraries for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I would like to nominate the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (CLP-LBPH) for consideration as the NLS Library of the Year.

The attached documents submitted in accordance with the nomination criteria outline the compelling reasons that merit your consideration for this award and recognition.

Mark Lee, Library Services Administrator for CLP-RLBPH, developed new and innovative services that are paying dividends in library user feedback and statistics. A few of the library's accomplishments are highlighted here:

- In 2018, CLP-LBPH became the first library of its size to convert to a new software option with WebREADS, paving the way for other large regional libraries
- CLP-LBPH became the largest library to pilot the Gutenberg process with the Library of Congress' National Library Service (NLS)
- Nationally, CLP-LBPH maintained the highest title count per cartridge
- In 2018, CLP-LBPH expanded outreach to 15 counties in Pennsylvania resulting in 131 outreach visits and presentations. LBPH advised over 3,401 Pennsylvania citizens about services available to them
- In 2018 CLP-LBPH began remote programming to children
- In 2018, CLP-LBPH provided rewarding volunteer and vocational experiences to 193 individuals working nearly 13,000 hours
- CLP-LBPH remotely presented on assistive technology to Pennsylvania libraries and United Way
- Translated all welcome packet materials into Spanish
- In 2018, to better serve Pennsylvania patrons of the NLS, CLP-LBPH developed a linguistically diverse staff comprising speakers of Spanish, Serbian, Hindi, Tamil, French, Italian, ASL and Portuguese

CLP-LBPH shines with creativity and innovation. This is illustrated in some of their programming efforts such as the "Virtual Storytime" via conference call. Children, parents and educators call in to the library to read, sing and make tactile art. In addition, library staff created a brochure to highlight services to educators of students with print disabilities for Commonwealth Intermediate Units.

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In their continued quest for excellent service, the library hosts a monthly Advisory and Advocacy Committee meeting comprising a group of 20 NLS patrons in order to elicit advice and recommendations. The library receives substantial positive feedback from all types of library users.

LBPH and its staff are highly qualified for this recognition, so I ask for your strong consideration of the information provided in this letter and supplemental documentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Glenn R. Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Glenn R. Miller, Deputy Secretary
Office of Commonwealth Libraries