

For Immediate Release
March 12, 2021

Joanna McCloskey, Seaford High School Librarian, Certified Sustainable

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative and New York Library Association has recognized Joanna McCloskey as a sustainability leader.

New York State— March 12, 2021— Joanna McCloskey, School Librarian at Seaford High School, in Seaford, NY, is the first school librarian to be certified as sustainable through the award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program, the first of its kind in the world, through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and New York Library Association. Joanna McCloskey will be recognized at the 2021 Annual Conference of the New York Library Association held in Syracuse, NY November 3rd-6th.



Joanna McCloskey, School Librarian at Seaford High School, in Seaford, NY with her Sustainable Libraries Certificate.

“Libraries completing certification have demonstrated leadership in conducting the operations of their organizations, as well as program and service design, with a critical eye towards environmental stewardship, economic feasibility and social equity”, said Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director of the New York Library Association, “Their efforts serve as a model for the 16,500 public libraries in the United States.”

International Impact

Joanna McCloskey participated in the Sustainable Library Certification Program, the first program of its kind in the world to assist libraries of all types – public, academic, and school – to assess their opportunities to make better choices on behalf of the local and global community.

The program was recently recognized by the International Federation of Library Associations at their 2019 World Congress in Athens, Greece, becoming the first program in the United States to be recognized through their “Green Libraries” Award.

Comprehensive Approach

Joanna completed action items in categories such as Partnerships & Community Involvement, Leading Beyond the Library, Social Equity & Resiliency, Standards & Curriculum, and Collections. Ms. McCloskey said the following about the process:

“I have thoroughly enjoyed completing this certification. What I enjoyed most was being given an opportunity to self-reflect and improve my professional practices. Despite having a very successful career as a school librarian, including being teacher of the year in 2013-2014, I knew that there were areas I needed to improve. As you know, school librarians often work in isolation with little collaboration, so this experience provided the right environment for me to act. Jen Cannell was instrumental in supporting and guiding me throughout the process. To have an opportunity to work with a such an accomplished colleague was incredible, and I am forever grateful. I started the program a few months before COVID, therefore, swift action was needed if I was going to remain in the forefront and survive these challenges. I had to initiate my sustainability in the broadest of terms. I was fortunate that my administration did not shut my library down; I firmly believe that this was a direct result of the actions I took towards sustainability.”

Forty public libraries statewide are currently working on their certification. The first cohort of school librarians began in January 2020. The academic program went live April 2020, and the public library program will launch nationwide in spring 2021.

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The New York Library Association leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community.

For more information, press only:

Jeremy Johannesen, CAE, Executive Director
518.432.6952
director@nyla.org