



**Palm Beach County  
Library System**

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## Palm Beach County Library System Receives 2022 FLA Awards & Scholarship

The Palm Beach County Library System and staff were recognized with four 2022 Florida Library Association (FLA) Awards. Below is a highlight of the winners from the *Florida Libraries*, the official journal of the Florida Library Association:

### **Minority Scholarship Winner**

Joseph Dellosa is currently a Library Associate IV at the Clarence E. Anthony Branch of the Palm Beach County Library System. Joseph scored the highest of all applicants this year. The committee noted the strength of his application and were impressed by how professional it was. His passion for the Glades community shined through in both of his essays, and his desire and commitment to do right by this community was moving. One committee member noted that his essays “[spoke] to his own feelings and thoughts which align directly with those of ALA and FLA core beliefs.” Overall, Joseph was found to be very deserving of this scholarship.

### **Outstanding New Librarian**

Katrina Brockway received her MLIS in December 2020 and is everything we want our new librarians to be: enthusiastic, dedicated, creative, and informed. She has a flair and a passion for programming, and is willing — excited, even — to innovate and iterate to meet the needs of the community. She doesn’t, however, let her enthusiasm for programming detract from other areas of librarianship. She currently serves on two system committees and dedicates a significant amount of time to advancing their goals, especially goals related to equity and inclusion. She consistently provides excellent customer service to both internal and external customers, frequently receiving particular praise for going above and beyond when helping. Katrina embodies the future of librarianship.

### **Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award - Children**

Palm Beach County Library System's Virtual Sensory Storytime or (VSST) was created to provide an opportunity to engage members of this community through an inclusive and interactive zoom storytime complete with books, songs, and sensory activities. VSST was one of the most well-attended virtual programming for the Palm Beach County Library with a weekly average attendance of 22 members. Since its inception in May 2021, over 523 individuals have attended these storytimes with a passive viewership of over 342 participants. Due to the Palm Beach County Library System's ability to recognize a need in the community during a difficult time, VSST has become a beacon for the special needs community where members continuously attend and enjoy quality programming.

### **Intellectual Freedom**

The Palm Beach County Library System made an exceptional contribution to increasing the right of access to stories featuring black girls as the lead character in print, electronic and audiobook content through the adoption of the national #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign. The displays, bibliography and catalog-searchable hashtag have raised awareness in the community that this it is important for every child to see themselves in the books they read, and due to the ingenuity and perseverance of staff, young black female library members now have a resounding presence among the Library's collection.

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