

NJLA



New Jersey Library Association
The voice of New Jersey libraries and librarians

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PRESS RELEASE

INAUGURAL NJLA STUDENT AWARD GOES TO RUTGERS STUDENT

New Jersey library community celebrates contributions of William Bejarano

On April 21, 2015, members of the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), library advocates, and community leaders will honor Rutgers student William Bejarano at its annual honors and awards reception with the inaugural NJLA Student Award. The evening serves to celebrate the contributions of library staff and supporters, as well as highlight library service across the state.

Mr. Bejarano is an Information Specialist at the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies and a candidate for a Master's degree in Library and Information Science at the Rutgers School of Communication and Information (SC&I). He was nominated for his exemplary work during the course of his studies. The winner is required to be a current MLIS student or have been a student between January 2014 and February 2015.

Mr. Bejarano was selected for this award because of his outstanding academic performance, broad scholarly activities, and extraordinary intellectual curiosity. He managed to maintain a heavy courseload with a 4.0 GPA while working full time in a special library, publishing and presenting his research, and serving the librarian community as executive board member of the *Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists*, an international organization.

“As a SC&I graduate and instructor, I was thrilled to nominate one of our own for this great new award,” commented Dr. Judit Ward, Director of Information Services at the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies. “Our library has been privileged to provide internship opportunities for SC&I students in each semester since 2007,” Ward said.

William Bejarano is actually a full-time staff member, who simultaneously participates in the library's hands-on training program for graduate students.

“When he joined our library two years ago, he took the initiative and jumped right into our historical research on the birth of alcohol science, immediately making a significant contribution to an article published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*,” Ward said.

Since then, Mr. Bejarano has been the co-author of several publications, presentations, and posters at various local, national, and international conferences. In addition, he has volunteered at local conferences and co-hosted an international

conference. He currently plays a key role in the *Reading for Recovery* project, funded by an ALA Carnegie-Whitney Grant, to create a Readers Advisory tool on addiction topics.

“His multiple talents, work ethic, and outstanding time-management skills will make him an excellent librarian. No doubt that the profession will soon benefit greatly from a rising star,” Ward said.

“I am thankful for this award, and I appreciate that NJLA is recognizing the contributions of MLIS students to the profession. The Rutgers School of Communication and Information has provided a wonderful education. I am also lucky enough to work at the Center of Alcohol Studies in an environment that is encouraging and supportive of professional development, where I can translate the theoretical and practical knowledge into my daily work,” said William. “This recognition strengthens my commitment to contribute to the library community both in New Jersey and beyond.”

The NJLA Student Award will be presented to William Bejarano at the New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference, taking place on April 20-22, 2015 in Long Branch, NJ. For more information, please visit <http://njlaconference.info/>.

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About NJLA

Established in 1890, the NJLA is the oldest and largest library organization in New Jersey. It advocates for the advancement of library services for the residents of New Jersey, provides continuing education & networking opportunities for librarians and supports the principles of intellectual freedom & promotes access to library materials for all. Our office in Trenton, NJ provides services to over 1700 members. For more information, go to www.njla.org.