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NEWS RELEASE

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Elmhurst Librarian Selected for State Leadership Initiative

ELMHURST, IL — **Rita Perona**, Adult Services librarian at Elmhurst Public Library, is one of only 30 Illinois librarians selected to participate in Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative, an extraordinary yearlong program designed to develop future leaders in the library profession and in the Illinois community. Perona is the library's fourth Synergy selection, with Bryan Blank, Catherine Ingram, and Joyce McIntosh previously participating in the program.

The group of 30 librarians will attend three sessions and work in a unique environment with other developing leaders, experienced Illinois library leaders, and nationally recognized speakers. The goal of the program is for each individual to develop leadership skills that they can apply in local, state, and global arenas. The Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association sponsor the seminars.

Such an opportunity will surely strengthen an already accomplished staff that has supported an increasingly busy library. While the economy plummeted, the Elmhurst Public Library's usage statistics climbed. In November 2009, the Elmhurst Public Library cited a 7% increase in daily visitors, averaging 1,600 each day. From May to October 2009, the library circulated 781,000 materials, a 9% jump. Visitors have relied on and benefitted from not only the library's substantial collection, but also its free services, such as high-speed Internet access, job-development seminars and career counseling, and computer classes.

The Elmhurst Public Library strives to enrich life in Elmhurst by providing opportunities to explore, learn and grow. EPL offers the support and resources for Elmhurst residents to develop a love of reading; access information for work and learning; pursue interests that will enrich their lives; understand changes in technology, society and culture; and gather and interact with each other. Elmhurst Public Library is a place for discovery at the heart of the community.

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