

For Immediate Release:

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Milwaukee Public Library Staff Member Honored with National Library Service Award

Raleigh, North Carolina – July 13, 2023 – Keystone Systems and the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) are excited to announce Kim Tomlinson as the 2023 KLAS Klauber Award honoree. Tomlinson, Collection Librarian, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL), was nominated for her service to the library, its patrons, and the greater community. A highlight of Tomlinson’s service efforts is work to support the Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement (ABLE) nonprofit organization.

Keystone Systems and the Julie Klauber Award Committee will recognize Tomlinson during an award ceremony held as part of the opening session of the 2023 Keystone Library Automation System (KLAS) Users’ Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on Monday, July 17. Zarina Mohd Shah, WTBBL Library Services Manager, says, “Kim was nominated this year for her outstanding work in serving our patrons and communities of Wisconsin and her contributions to her field. Moreover, the well-deserved nomination recognizes Kim’s efforts to ABLE in securing local grants, particularly throughout the pandemic.” To support ABLE’s grant efforts, Tomlinson diligently gathers and delivers valuable data including the number of WTBBL patrons in each county, circulation numbers of a recorded local author from a specific county, and additional statistics from sources such as the KLAS Readership and Circulation Report. Mohd Shah states, “The number of local grants received with help from data compiled by Kim from KLAS makes it possible for ABLE to offer their services.”

In response to word of her selection as this year’s award recipient Tomlinson says being honored will mean one thing to her: “Motivation”. She continues, “This award will motivate me to continue what I do for the talking book and braille library, its partners, and the community.”

“The collaboration between MPL and the WTBBL is critical to our ability to ensure fair and equal access to library materials and resources,” said Joan Johnson, Library Director. “Kim exemplifies a great spirit of dedication and inclusion and is an inspiration to everyone at the library and in the Milwaukee community. We are very proud of her work and applaud the much-deserved recognition she is receiving as a recipient of the Julie Klauber Award.”

About Milwaukee Public Library:

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 13 locations and more than three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves nearly one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe.

About the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library:

As part of a national network cooperating with the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) provides audiobooks and Brailled materials to persons, living in Wisconsin, who cannot read or use regular print

materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations. In addition, WTBBL also circulates audiobooks and braille materials about Wisconsin or by Wisconsin authors, as well as audio-described DVDs.

About the Julie Klauber Award:

The annual Julie Klauber Award recognizes outstanding and dedicated library staff that work with KLAS in their daily job functions and provide exceptional service to their library and the community in the spirit of Julie Klauber. Klauber was a national expert and leader on disability issues. She served as the director of Talking Books Plus library in Suffolk County, NY, and authored several articles on library resources and services for people with disabilities.

About Keystone Systems:

Keystone Systems, Inc., a leading provider of accessible library software since 1983, provides software and service solutions to libraries with complex demands. Keystone developers have created a powerful, yet elegant library automation system (KLAS), which has the flexibility to meet specific needs of special, academic, and public libraries. For more information about Keystone Systems or KLAS, visit www.klas.com.