Carolyn Markuson School library innovation Grant AWARD

Announcing the 2022 Carolyn Markuson School Library Innovation Grant Award

**May 31, 2022**

Today, The New England School Library Association (NESLA) announces the 2022 Carolyn Markuson School Library Innovation Grant Award winner: Ariel Dagan, Library Media Specialist at Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High School, Franklin, Massachusetts.

The newly established Carolyn Markuson School Library Innovation Grant Award aims to encourage school librarians to design innovative special projects which engage students by providing financial support to implement these projects.

**Ariel Dagan, Library Media Specialist at Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High School, Franklin, Massachusetts.**

Since coming to Tri-County in March 2014, Mr. Dagan has made extensive changes to the school library media program that have been beneficial to the students, faculty, and the school in general. He began by renaming the school library to The Library Media Center, a name meant to promote a place within the school that is a resource center that students and teachers love to visit. Then he rearranged the library in a way that created greater use by students and staff, and he purchased tall café-style tables and mobile tables that allow for flexibility based on group activity.

Mr. Dagan was recipient of the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) 2019 President’s Award. This award honors an MSLA member who, in a career of one to five years, has made a significant impact on student learning through a quality school library program.

“Mr. Dagan is an inspiration to our students and the school itself,” said Superintendent Stephen Dockray. “His innovative approach and seemingly limitless wealth of knowledge of collecting, maintaining and making accessible media resources to students and faculty has been remarkable.”

**The 2022 Carolyn Markuson School Library Innovation Grant Award**

In Mr. Dagan’s grant application, he proposed an innovative interactive 3-week unit designed to provide students with a critical look at their use of mobile cellular devises, and an understanding of the multiple factors that may play a role in determining whether those device use habits are a sign of addictive behavior. The unit aims to develop students’ critical thinking surrounding mobile cellular devise use.

As the 2022 Carolyn Markuson School Library Innovation Grant Award winner, Ariel will receive a cash award of up to $500 for the purchase of relevant materials for the unit, and a one year’s American Library Association (ALA) and American Association of School Librarians (AASL) membership.

Find out more about the award here: https://www.nesla.us/carolyn-markuson-fund.html

**About NESLA**

Founded in 1918, NESLA is an affiliate of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). It is the oldest school library association in the world, and the only regional school library association in the United States. NESLA’s purpose is to promote professional development of school librarians and to enhance school library programs in the New England states.

Carolyn Markuson School Library Innovation Grant Award Chairs:

Rolf Erikson and Fran Zilonis

New England School Library Association (NESLA)

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