

We received 34 nominations for excellent work by PCCLD employees from co-workers, managers and patrons. Kudos to our PCCLD employees! Out of all the nominations received, the Steering Committee selected 4 individuals to receive the WIZ Award for this quarter. We asked each of the recipients some questions in order to get to know them a little better.

Please take a few minutes to read each WIZ Award spotlight and to congratulate each of the WIZ Award recipients!

**Javier Razo**

Javier joined PCCLD first as a temporary employee in 2023, then as a regular PCCLD employee in February of this year. Already Javier is receiving positive feedback and a WIZ Award! Javier works in the IT Department as Helpdesk Technician. He has been nominated for his initiative and willingness to go above and beyond to troubleshoot technology issues. Javier demonstrates *Embracing Feedback* and *Celebrating Others* leading to the key result of increased *Digital Use* and *Library Visits*.

**Congratulations Javier!**

**What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

*I really enjoy learning something new every day. IT is a great field where there's always something new to discover. Additionally, the people I work with are great; everyone is so helpful and friendly.*

**What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?**

*The Afghan Campaign by Steven Pressfield always makes me think about how different the world was. Macedonian soldiers marched through the desert eating onions as treats and drank themselves to sleep every night.*

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

*I don't eat here too often, but so far my favorite place is Joe Tomato. I love their bread.*

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

*Brand New is my all-time favorite band. "The Devil and God Are Raging Inside Me" is my favorite album of all time. Their sound is so unique, in my opinion.*

**If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

*Lifetime seats at the Nuggets courtside or free 5-hour energies for life.*

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

*I love sour stuff with chili, like sour mango-flavored chili pops.*

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

*My favorite hobby is reading. There's still nothing like a book to escape from stress.*

**What book should *not* have been made into a movie and why?**

*Ender's Game* is my all-time favorite book. It's also one of the worst movies ever made. I remember as a kid wishing they made the book into a movie. The battle room is what killed it for me; they just didn't match what I envisioned in my head while reading it.

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

*I've always wanted to be good at math. I want to wake up knowing how to do fractions.*

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

*I can cook like a 1-star Michelin chef. Only one star though.*

**Linda Lewis**

Linda Lewis has served as Branch Manager of the Greenhorn Valley branch since February of 2021 and also currently serves as Substitute Supervisor. Linda was recognized by patrons in the community for consistently encouraging the valley residents by representing the library at SRDA luncheons, hosting many book clubs, and also promoting activities at the community library. Linda serves as a great advocate for the library and the Greenhorn Valley branch and is noticed for *Engaging Customers* leading to increased *Program Attendance*.  
**Congratulations Linda!**

**Crystal Talley**

Crystal worked at PCCLD from January of 2011 to April of 2019 on a part-time basis as Customer Service Representative in Circulation and also as Museum and Special Collections Coordinator. Crystal earned a Master's in Library Science degree and returned to the library district in October of 2019 and is now serving as the Manager of the Lamb Library. Crystal has been recognized by several patrons for her good work at Lamb library. She has been acknowledged for her excellent craft programs, making everyone feel special, and in general going above and beyond to make sure that everyone is up to speed and working together. Crystal is nominated for *Engaging Customers* leading to the key result of increased *Program Attendance*.

**Congratulations Crystal!**

**What do you like best about working at the library district?**

*Helping patrons find their next favorite author and making the kids laugh in story time.*

**What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?**

*I am currently reading the Horror Café book club choice, "The Death of Jane Lawrence" by Caitlyn Starling*

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

Takeout from Sonora's Meat Market

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

Anything Classic Rock, but probably Queen.

**If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

More wishes....

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Chocolate cake

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

Reading

**What book should *not* have been made into a movie and why?**

Flowers for Algernon - I feel like the book was more innocent than the movie portrayed it, or maybe that was just the film directors of 1968.

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

The ability to play the piano or any instrument.

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

I have never been to a theme park.

**[Maria Smyer](#)**

Maria has served at the library district for 18 years as Hispanic Resource Specialist! Maria continues to serve in this capacity as a great asset to the Pueblo community for a variety of library programs and services. Maria is recognized for her considerable work in the area of running English and Spanish classes and not only this work but always trying to make others feel welcome and feel like they belong. Many patrons ask for Maria by name and Maria has made and continues to make a significant positive impact in the community. Maria is nominated for *Engaging Customers* leading to the key result of increased *Program Attendance*. **Congratulations Maria!**

**What do you like best about working at the Library District and/or specifically about your role as Hispanic Resource Specialist?**

*The best part of working at the library is our incredible staff. In my role I have many great outreach opportunities and I enjoy working with the immigrant community and introducing them to the library.*

**What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?**

*I am currently reading You Exist Too Much by Zaina Ararat*

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

*I have too many places I love! Pueblo has great restaurants. I love Millstop and Habaneros in Pueblo and Three Sisters in Colorado City.*

**If a genie gave you a wish, what would you wish for?**

*To have the power to abolish all dictatorships*

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

*Strawberry Tamales*

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

*Lila Downs is one of my favorite singers.*

**What book should *not* have been made into a movie and why?**

*The 1996 version of The Island of Dr. Moreau was horrible and usually your imagination is better than any movie.*

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

*I love to read real books.*

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

*The ability to speak all languages fluently.*

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

*I am studying Italian.*

**Congratulations** to our **WIZ (Working in the Zone) Award Recipients** for the **fourth** quarter of 2023!

We received 30 nominations for excellent work by PCCLD employees from co-workers, managers and patrons. Kudos to our PCCLD employees! Out of all the nominations received, the Steering Committee selected 3 individuals to receive the WIZ Award for this quarter. We asked each of the recipients some questions in order to get to know them a little better.

Please take a few minutes to read each WIZ Award spotlight and to congratulate each of the WIZ Award recipients!

**Stacy Righini**

Stacy joined PCCLD in April of 2023 and worked as a Customer Service Representative until she transitioned to the Pueblo West library as a Program and Outreach Specialist in September of 2023. Stacy has been nominated by coworkers for taking extra initiative, creating amazing programs and going above and beyond to help patrons and employees. Stacy demonstrates *Empowering Innovation* with the creative programs she has created leading to an increase in *Program Attendance*. **Congratulations Stacy!**

**What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

*I love the blend of community engagement and creative expression that my job entails. Being able to foster connections within our community while simultaneously exploring and sharing creativity is truly rewarding. It's more than a job; it's a passion that I am fortunate enough to call my profession.*

**What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?**

*"Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley holds a special place in my heart. This masterpiece not only captivates with its narrative but also serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of responsibility for our creations. Shelley's exploration of creation and consequence resonates deeply with me.*

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

*A gem I adore in Pueblo is Blue Ocean Sushi on the Riverwalk.*

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

*Machine Gun Kelly has recently captured my musical interest, thanks to a memorable birthday concert experience courtesy of my daughter. I loved his energy and presence on stage. While my musical tastes are eclectic, he stands out for his dynamic performances... and he is definitely "my type".*

**If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

*My wish would be to live on a vast, remote piece of land equipped with a cozy tiny home, a thriving garden, and ample space for numerous pets and animals. Most importantly, I'd wish for my children to live within a 30-minute radius of this sanctuary.*

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

*Neapolitan Coconut Slice Candy Bars (a.k.a "Coconut Boats")! They're not just a treat; they're a cherished memory of time spent with my father. He would buy them for me during our errands together in my childhood.*

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

*Crocheting. My grandmother taught me to crochet when I was a child, and I still find it the most relaxing way to craft.*

**What book should *not* have been made into a movie and why?**

*While the adaptation of "1984" into a movie was an ambitious endeavor, I believe it's a book that should have remained on the page. The novel's profound and dreary narrative loses its depth and context on the screen. The movie struggles to capture the intricacies of Orwell's vision, making the already somber tale feel even more disconnected.*

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

*I would love to acquire advanced computer programming skills, specifically to develop my own AI programs.*

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

*One summer, I had the unique opportunity to study dolphins at Cape Lookout National Seashore and volunteer for the park service. This was one of the best summers of my life!*

**Community Relations Team**

The Community Relations team has been nominated for being “the most talented team in the public library game!” They were recognized with the most nominations this quarter for their large events, engaging programs and amazing support for the branches. The team’s artistry and technical ability showcases their phenomenal work in promoting library programs and events. This team has been nominated for *Empowering Innovation* and *Engaging Customers* leading to an increase in *Program Attendance*. **Congratulations Community Relations Team!**

***The team took turns answering these questions – can you guess who answered which questions?***

**What do you like best about serving on the Community Relations team?**

*I get to work with a family. I appreciate the many hats our team wears and how many skills we can gain from one another! The team carries a safe space to be human, whether that falls in the work bucket or the personal bucket. I am lucky to be led and surrounded by an authentic and genuine group. “It’s not always what you are doing that comes first, but it’s who you do it with.” The people in the department are the best team I have ever worked with.*

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

*Being fearless at wood working/carpentry.*

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

*B Street Café, El Super Taco (recently had for the first time), Tortilleria Delicias (best fresh tortillas ever!)*

**What would you say is your favorite genre as books go?**

*It's a tie between romance and fantasy.*

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

*Raw almonds covered with dark chocolate sprinkled with rock salt.- I created this recipe. Recipe Attached!*

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

*Al Di Meola*

**What book should *not* have been made into a movie and why?**

*The Hobbit. They totally ruined a great book.*

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

*Painting stuff. Building stuff. Growing Stuff. 😊*

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

*I've self-published six books!*

## **Cynthia Nicola**

Cynthia is seen pictured here in a pair of visibly mended jeans and a top made from a tea towel and second hand fabrics! Cynthia has been employed with PCCLD since June of 2013! She has worked in a variety of capacities and has recently been promoted to Librarian/Assistant Branch Manager at Lamb Library! Cynthia is consistently nominated for a WIZ Award most quarters but has never been the recipient of the WIZ Award. Cynthia is invariably nominated for interacting with all patrons with respect and kindness and putting together engaging and fun programs for the community. One nomination form submission said, "patrons always say "I Love Cynthia!" Cynthia was nominated for *Engaging Customers* leading to the key result of avid *Program Attendance*.

**Congratulations Cynthia!**

**What do you like best about working at the library district?**

*Everything!*

**What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?**

*The best book I've read recently is *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. It's a fictional novel that is rooted in social justice and discrimination but with a very different twist. I'm trying not to give any spoilers!*

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

*Black Jack Pizza but only their Chicken Caesar Salad. They have the best Caesar dressing!!*

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

*I'm not a big music person so I will just say 80s music and earlier.*

**If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

*I would wish for my dad to move close by.*

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

*Cake with buttercream frosting!*

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

*Visible Mending!!*

**What book should *not* have been made into a movie and why?**

*Annihilation by Jeff VanderMeer*

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

*Linocut printmaking! I have all the tools and I'm just waiting on the magic!*

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

*I went to kindergarten in Cuba.*

Congratulations to our WIZ (Working in the Zone) Award Recipients for the third quarter of 2023!

We received 20 nominations for excellent work by PCCLD employees from co-workers, managers and patrons. Kudos to our PCCLD employees! Out of all the nominations received, the Steering Committee selected 3 individuals to receive the WIZ Award for this quarter. We asked each of the recipients some questions in order to get to know them a little better.

Please take a few minutes to read each WIZ Award spotlight and to congratulate each of the WIZ Award recipients!

Tina Martins Gonzalez

Tina joined PCCLD in February of 2024 and currently works as Makerspace Educator in the Makerspace at the Rawlings library. Tina has been nominated by patrons of the Makerspace as someone who listens, explains everything very well, is friendly and a good teacher. Patrons really appreciate Tina's work in the Makerspace. Tina has been nominated for Engaging Customers which has a large impact on returning Library Visits. Congratulations Tina!

What do you like best about working at the Library District?  
Supporting Patrons!

What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now? The Phantom Tollbooth.



What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?

Cherry Thai

If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for? Free hardwood floors!

What is one of your favorite sweet treats?

Fruit Tarts!

Marissa Olivas-Price

Marissa joined the library district as a Customer Service Representative in February of 2023. Marissa was nominated by coworkers for picking up work and contributing to the success of the branch right when she started! Marissa has helped with everything and anything including the Horror book club and especially making patrons feel welcome. Marissa demonstrates Engaging Customers leading to the key result of Program Attendance. Congratulations Marissa!

What do you like best about working at the Library District?

I love learning about all the amazing things we offer to our community and the opportunities we provide.

What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?

I am currently reading "Never Whistle at Night. An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology" Stephen Graham Jones

Maykala Noyd

Maykala started at the Pueblo West library in September of 2019 as a Materials Handling Technician, but has been serving as a Customer Service Representative since May of 2021. Maykala was nominated for being "the most helpful person I have ever met at the library"! Maykala demonstrates patience, kindness and puts the customer's first. Maykala was nominated for Engaging Customers leading to increased Library Visits and Digital Use. Congratulations Maykala!

What do you like best about working at the Library District?

I love working with the community and being surrounded by books!

What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?

I'm always reading way too many books because I can't help myself. Right now I'm reading Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, To Shape a Dragon's Breath by Monique Blackgoose, and The Color Purple by Alice Walker.

What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?

Shah's Kabob & Gyro, Tacos La Corita, and El Super Taco. (I can't pick just one of anything, if that is not obvious!)

Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?

My favorite musical artist is SZA. My favorite band is Protomartyr.

If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?

Probably something cliché like world peace or making sure everyone is safe, content, and equipped with the things they need to live well.

What is one of your favorite sweet treats?

Gelato!

What is one of your favorite hobbies?

Reading, cooking, seeing live music.

What book should not have been made into a movie and why?

I haven't seen it in years, but probably *The Giver* (2014) because it most definitely did not live up to how I envisioned that story in my head as a child! The movie also changes the story in ways that I thought took away from the ideas the book explores.

If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?

Maybe being more creative and artistic.

What is something most people don't know about you?

That I haven't actually read most of the Harry Potter books or seen the movies.

Congratulations to our WIZ (Working in the Zone) Award Recipients for the second quarter of 2023!

We received 25 nominations for excellent work by PCCLD employees from co-workers, managers and patrons. Kudos to our PCCLD employees! Out of all the nominations received, the Steering Committee selected 3 individuals to receive the WIZ Award for this quarter. We asked each of the recipients some questions in order to get to know them a little better.

Please take a few minutes to read each WIZ Award spotlight and to congratulate each of the WIZ Award recipients!

### **Alyssa Mestas**

Alyssa Mestas joined the PCCLD team in October of 2022 and serves as a Customer Service Representative at the Lucero library. Alyssa received patron nominations for her patience and ability to explain instructions in a professional manner.

Alyssa was nominated for Engaging Customers leading to increased Library Visits and Digital Use. Congratulations Alyssa!

### **What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

There are many wonderful qualities about working at the Library District, but my favorite is how we embrace our community. One and all are welcome into libraries, offering something for everyone. Every branch is unique in serving their nearby communities, while ready to welcome in all new patrons who visit us.

**What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?**

Clytemnestra by Constanza Casati is my current read at the moment. The Classics have my heart forever, so it is no surprise that many of my favorite reads concern the overlooked female characters that exist within those ancient texts. The authors can't always change their fate but these novels gift them a voice, complexities, and sympathy they weren't granted in the past.

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

The Pueblo Dragon on 1867 S Pueblo Blvd is my favorite Chinese food restaurant!

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

My favorite band is 5 Seconds of Summer and my favorite artist is Olivia Rodrigo

**If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

Initially, I would feel pressure to wish for something vastly good like world peace or money. However, I have read too many fairy tales, legends, myths, and folklore to nonchalantly make wishes that huge. Genies are tricksters who rely on turning your words against you. So to combat it I would very plainly wish for a single fresh fig fruit to eat and be done with it.

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Mixed fruit tea with mini boba and lychee jelly

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

Besides reading, I love watching movies and original series.

**What book should not have been made into a movie and why?**

The 2010 movie of Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief, due to the many egregious changes being done against the author's wishes. Thankfully, a proper series adaptation on Disney+ has been accomplished with the author's approval and hand in its creation.

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

A photographic memory would be amazing and a lifesaver!

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

I didn't get my license till I was 19, so I missed out on driving in high school

**Jessica Blaha**

Jessica has been with the library district since June of 2019 serving as Program and Outreach Specialist at the Lucero library. Jessica did a fabulous job executing the Women of the Pueblo Eastside event! The event contained a tea ceremony and from the planning to the execution, this event was fantastic! The community came together, stories were shared, and there as a real sense of shared appreciation and pride for the Eastside! Jessica demonstrated Celebrating Others which lead to an upsurge in Library Visits. Congratulations Jessica!

**What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?**

A Traitor in Whitehall by Julia Kelly and The Wish Nicholas Sparks

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

Bingo Burger

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Nerds Gummy Clusters Candy

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

Cross Stitching and Cooking!

**Deanna Herrera**

Deanna has been employed with PCCLD since September of 2005! Deanna works hard to foster a positive work environment for her coworkers and guests. Deanna demonstrates a positive attitude and always goes out of her way to make someone feel special. She spends hours of her own time preparing and creating decorations for the 1st floor for EVERY holiday. Deanna shows caring and selflessness. Deanna exhibits Celebrating Others which leads to increased Library Visits. Congratulations Deanna!

**What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

Everything and Everybody! I Love to come to work to serve and help others and I Enjoy working here!

**What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?**

Who has time to read? Just because I work in a library jk...but not me! I enjoy spending my time with family, friends and especially my grandbabies! I will read them picture books if that counts. "Books consume you" (just my opinion), I choose to do more Living, Laughing and Loving my loved ones instead of burying my nose in a book (but that's just me)

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

Judoro's, my sister in laws food truck...restaurant coming soon!

**What is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

Usher

**If a genie gave you a wish, what would you wish for?**

A million dollars! I guess, is that too much to ask?

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Just one? I have way too many so I'll just go with "Schuster's" Cinnamon Twists!

**What book should not have been made into a movie and why?**

Can't answer, I'm not a reader, sorry not sorry! ☺

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

Spending time with family, cooking and celebrating each other.

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skills, what would it be?**

A guitarist! I would love to know how to play it just for fun!

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

I don't read, just because I work in a library, crazzzzy I know but it is true. So I'm not here for the books or the dvd's. I am here because this is where God wanted me to be and it is the perfect job for me and my personality!

### **Congratulations to our WIZ (Working in the Zone) Award Recipients for the first quarter of 2023!**

We received 34 nominations for excellent work by PCCLD employees from co-workers, managers and patrons. Kudos to our PCCLD employees! Out of all the nominations received, the Steering Committee selected three individuals to receive the WIZ Award for this quarter. We asked each of the recipients some questions in order to get to know them a little better.

Please take a few minutes to read each WIZ Award spotlight and to congratulate each of the WIZ Award recipients!

#### **Candace Alexander**

Candace Alexander joined the PCCLD team in February of 2019 and serves as a Customer Service Representative at the Giodone library. Candace was nominated by her coworkers for lending her creativity, innovation and service! Candace created a unique Beetlejuice escape room which was a great experience for customers! Candace was also acknowledged for helping her coworker with a program at the last minute and doing a wonderful job. Candace's example of Empowering Innovation and Celebrating Others leads to the key result of increasing Program Attendance. Congratulations Candace!

**What do you like best about working at the Library District?** Being able to nurture creativity and sow the wonders of imagination, opportunity, and inspiration. Our small city has already staked the claim as the home of heroes, why not continue the legacy as the heart of creativity and inspiration?

**What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?** "Two Graves" by Preston and Child is a novel that I have recently found more relatable and connected too. The feeling of an endless cat and mouse game, devastating grief, the idea of being shattered, and the longing for retribution. There's a tragic beauty in knowing that revenge always comes at a price, hence the two graves. One grave will always be for you.

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?** I don't actually have a favorite place; I really just enjoy food in general. If I like what a restaurant has to serve I'll visit frequently, if I don't then I won't

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?** Mariah Carey

If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for? Nothing, wishes tend to operate as a give and take scenario. I would rather decline the offer or not use it all rather than take the chance of losing something in the process.

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?** I enjoy many sweets, it's difficult to list just one.

**What book should not have been made into a movie and why?** Nothing really comes to mind, either it was that terrible or I haven't read and watched both versions of a title, yet.

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?** Carpentry, or any other trade, like electrical, plumbing, automotive, etc.

## **Peggy Bilger**

Peggy will celebrate 31 years with the library district in December! Peggy currently serves as Cataloguer for PCCLD in the Technical Services Department. Peggy was nominated by her Technical Services coworker for her significant work on the ECF grant. Peggy mentored staff through the ECF grant process as it relates to catalogue training, processing, and maintaining billing for this significant grant that reimburses costs to the library for providing Wi-Fi hotspots, routers, and electronic devices to the Pueblo community. Peggy was nominated for Empowering Innovation and Celebrating Others leading to the key result of increased Digital Use. Congratulations Peggy!

## **What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

One of the things that I love about working at this library district is the responsiveness to community needs and the role I get to play. It runs the gamut from helping to quickly supply families with internet access and devices during the pandemic to increasing accessibility to all of the amazing items in our Local History and Genealogy Department. I enjoy the portal posts highlighting what is going on throughout the district and I love being a part of a library that serves the community at so many levels! Plus, I have awesome coworkers!

## **What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?**

I'm currently reading both Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries by Kory Stamper and Small Mercies by Dennis Lehane.

## **What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

There are soooo many good places to eat. I guess with MoMos being closed I'll say DC's on B Street.

## **Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

Elton John has consistently been one of my favorites for decades.

## **If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

I would wish for my daughter to move back to Colorado (just until I retire).

## **What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Ice cream! My favorite alternates between mint chocolate chip and Neapolitan.

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

Gardening

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

Furniture making

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

Most people don't know that I started working for the library in December 1992 as a Shelver at the McClelland Library. I was responsible for shelving 621 through 698.9.

**Lovely Murrell**

Lovely has been employed with PCCLD since October of 2014. Lovely currently serves as a Customer Service Representative at the Lamb library. Lovely was nominated for by a patron for always greeting patrons with a smile and going out of her way to answer any questions, help locating materials and offering relevant suggestions! Lovely is recognized for Engaging Customers leading to the key result of increased Library Visits. Congratulations Lovely!

**What do you like about living in Pueblo, Colorado?** My favorite thing about living in Pueblo, Colorado are the people. The people here are kind and generous. I have been welcomed into folks homes and hearts.

**If you could go back in time for one week, what time period would you go back to and why?** If I could go back for one week in time I'd go back fifty years before West Africa was colonized. I would spend that week telling them all the horrors of The Great Maafa (Kiswahilli for Great Sadness, or Unspeakable Horror) and organizing them to spread the word across the continent and preparing them to fight the invaders. I'd stress the importance of presenting a united front so that they all could maintain their autonomy in the long run. I'd do all this knowing it would erase my own existence. That would be a small sacrifice to stop The Great Maafa from ever happening.

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?** Janelle Monae is one of my favorite all time artists. She can sing, dance and act. She also an amazing story teller ( check out her book The Memory Librarian, it's in our collection.)

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?** One of my favorite places to eat in pueblo is Sacred Bean. They have amazing coffee and great pastries.

**Do you have a go-to karaoke song?** If so, what song is it? My go to karaoke song is Dancing Queen by Abba.

**What is one of your favorite sweet (or salty) treats?** My favorite savory treat might be olives or caper berries.

**What book should not have been made into a movie and why?** One book that was made into a movie that could have been skipped was the first Percy Jackson movie (BOOOOOOOOOO!!!)

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?** One of my favorite hobbies is cooking. I really like to learn a recipe really well and then put my own spin on it.

**Do you have a favorite podcast, or a podcast you like to listen to?** When I do make time to listen to a podcast I like to listen to The Read with Crissles and Kid Fury.

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?** If I could wake up with a new skill tomorrow, I'd be able to communicate with all of the earth's living creatures. I want to talk to everyone.

## **Robin Rice**

Robin joined PCCLD in July of 2022 as Materials Handling Technician at the Barkman library. Robin is fast approaching her one-year anniversary and has moved into the role of Customer Service Representative. Robin has been nominated by her coworkers for always pitching in to help with any aspect of library services at the Barkman library. From jumping in quickly to learn new skills and technology to helping coworkers and creating fabulous book displays to helping the Program and Outreach Specialist prepare monthly-themed programs, Robin is always willing to pitch in! Robin is nominated for Engaging Customers and Celebrating Others leading to the key results of increased Library Visits and Program Attendance. Congratulations Robin!

### **What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

Being able to work with friends who are passionate about their work.

### **What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?**

I am currently reading The Curse of Caste by Julia C. Collins

### **What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

Mill Stop Cafe, China Lantern, LaTronica's I could go on but you asked for only one so three is a compromise!

### **Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

Harry Chapin

### **If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

That all people would be touched by the better angels of our nature.

### **What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Anything Chocolate

### **What book should not have been made into a movie and why?**

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. Why? Because it would have been and proved to be difficult to capture the breadth of Louis Zamperini's story. And I thought it left out memorable moments.

### **What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

Nature photography

### **If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

Economic literacy.

**What is something most people don't know about you?** I learned to sail in Annapolis, Maryland on Chesapeake Bay.



## **Congratulations to our WIZ (Working in the Zone) Award Recipients for the fourth quarter of 2022!**

We received 39 nominations for excellent work by PCCLD employees from co-workers, managers and patrons. Kudos to our PCCLD employees! Out of all the nominations received, the Steering Committee selected three individuals to receive the WIZ Award for this quarter. We asked each of the recipients some questions in order to get to know them a little better.

Please take a few minutes to read each WIZ Award spotlight and to congratulate each of the WIZ Award recipients!

### **Tina Martins Gonzalez**

Tina Martins Gonzalez joined the PCCLD team in February 2022 as Program and Outreach Specialist at the Lucero library. Tina was recently promoted to Makerspace Educator at the Rawlings Library! Tina was nominated by both co-workers and patrons for going above and beyond to be helpful to patrons and provide a variety of programs for all people who visit the library. Tina's efforts in Engaging Customers is recognized leading to the key result of Library Visits and Program Attendance. Congratulations Tina!

#### **What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

Great and Unique people you meet through the library

#### **What book do you really connect with, or what book are you reading right now?**

I connect with the book, Daughter of Fortune, by Isabel Allende.

#### **What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?**

I love Shamrocks.

#### **Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

Berhana

#### **What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Fried Sweet Plantains

#### **What is one of your favorite storybook characters?**

Max from Where the Wild Things Are. Max reminds me of me when I was a kid, mischievous, bratty, and imaginative.

### **Maria Smyer**

Maria has been with the library district since January of 2006! Maria currently serves as Hispanic Resources Specialist. Maria was nominated for her dedication to facilitating ESL classes. Maria promotes a relaxed and inviting atmosphere at the branch and student literally light up when they see Maria! Maria is also recognized for being a great connector of community leaders to library events and collaboration with community partners. In 2022, Maria planned a Curanderismo mini conference at CSU-P which was very well received. Maria was

nominated for Celebrating Others leading to the key result of increased Program Attendance. Congratulations Maria!

**What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

Working with the immigrant population and the employees.

**What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?**

Dark Sacred Night by Michael Connelly (my favorite author's newest one!)

**What was your dream job when you were little?**

Detective

**What is your favorite food?**

Everything!

**If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

\$25 billion dollars

**Is there a tv show or series that you never miss?**

Stephen Colbert and Trevor Noah

**If you were a superhero, what superpower would you like to have?**

Ability to speak all the languages in the world

**Where would you most like to visit and why?**

India, during the Holi Festival.

**If you have unlimited resources, what hobby/skill would you like to pursue?**

Travel the entire world!

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

I'm a certified scuba diver.

**Jacque Carter**

Jacque has been employed with PCCLD since January of 1996! Jacque currently serves as Program and Outreach Specialist in the User Services department. Jacque was nominated for consistently taking time to ensure that things look good in the library and paying close attention to detail. Jacque is recognized for being extra attentive to the details that keep library displays fresh which keeps customers engaged. Jacque's ability to Empower Innovation leads to the key result of increased Circulation. Congratulations Jacque!

**What do you like best about working at the Library District?**

The number of patrons, particularly children, that I've been able to impact in positive ways.

**What book do you really connect with or what book are you reading right now?**

I'm currently listening to Street Poison, the Biography of Iceberg Slim.

**What is one of your favorite local Pueblo places to eat (we love to discover new places!)?** Agghhh...way too hard when you're a foodie! Tacos Fuego, Rojas, Papa Jose's, La Forchetta, Beer Barrel, Albertos Tacos, Mauro's Restaurant, China Lanterna, and Nachos, just to name a few.

**Who is one of your favorite bands or musical artists?**

Motley Crue

**If a genie gave you a wish what would you wish for?**

To travel the world

**What is one of your favorite sweet treats?**

Hershey's Chocolate Bar

**What is one of your favorite hobbies?**

Hanging out with family and friends

**If you could wake up tomorrow with a brand new skill, what would it be?**

Swimming. I never learned how and yet, I love so many water activities but shy away from doing them.

**What is something most people don't know about you?**

I was a band geek (played clarinet) and have the distinction of being the first female drum major at Pueblo County High School