



Illinois Heartland Library System

MEMO TO: IHLS Board of Directors
FROM: Leslie M. Bednar
DATE: October 14, 2024
RE: Support for Academic Librarians

In early August, librarians at Western Illinois University were notified they would be laid off effective May, 2026, due to a budget deficit at the school. The plan is for library operations to be supported by the library dean and civil service staff in the next academic year. Five librarians learned they were terminated in May, 2025 at Columbia College (Chicago).

CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) drafted a [statement of support](#) that was eventually adopted by the CARLI Board of Directors. ILA (Illinois Library Association) and RAILS (Reaching Across Illinois Library System) subsequently endorsed the CARLI statement.

In keeping with the IHLS Board's unwavering support of multitype libraries, we ask the same regarding academic libraries in the state. College and university librarians fill a necessary place in lifelong learning in Illinois.

Thank you for your consideration.

Recommended motion to approve the Support for Academic Libraries statement.

IMAGINING TOMORROW, DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES TODAY!
