



PEI
LITERACY

ALLIANCE

Educator Distinction Award 2025

Letters of Nomination for Christie Stetson

To the Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Christie Stetson, Librarian at Colonel Gray High School, for the Educator Distinction Award. In every aspect of her role, Christie exemplifies what it means to meet the needs of learners, create safe and welcoming environments, foster confidence, and place students' best interests at the heart of her work.

Christie began her career at Colonel Gray as an English teacher, but for the past five years she has served as our school's librarian. From the moment she stepped into this role, she brought with her an infectious passion for literacy that has transformed both our library and our school community. One of her first and most daunting tasks was to modernize the library space. This required countless hours of careful work—removing outdated books, making difficult decisions about what to keep, and reimagining how a library could best serve today's students. With vision and determination, Christie created a space where books feel exciting and accessible again, and where students are drawn in not just to study, but to explore, discover, and feel at home.

At the center of Christie's work is her unwavering commitment to connecting every student with the right book. She has made it her mission to find the story that will spark curiosity or foster confidence in each learner who walks through her doors. To do this, Christie spends an extraordinary amount of time reading, reviewing, and cataloguing books with her students in mind. Her recommendations are never random; they are deeply personal, guided by a genuine understanding of each student's interests and needs. When a student enters the library, they are met with Christie's trademark smile, her boundless energy, and her belief that there is a perfect book out there for them.

Equally important is the safe and positive environment Christie has built. The library under her leadership has become the heart of Colonel Gray, a place where students from all cultural backgrounds, identities, and experiences feel welcome. She fosters an atmosphere of acceptance and belonging that extends especially to those who may not always see themselves reflected in traditional spaces. LGBTQ+ students, newcomers, and those who sometimes feel on the margins of school life have found the library to be a refuge—a space where they are seen, valued, and celebrated.

Christie's impact extends beyond our school. She serves tirelessly on the Library Educators Association executive, working to ensure that students and educators across Prince Edward Island have equitable access to resources, support, and the literacy opportunities they deserve. In this role, she advocates not only for learners but also for her colleagues, ensuring that the work of librarians is recognized and supported at a provincial level.

Christie Stetson is more than an educator—she is the pulse of our school, a champion of literacy, and a role model for what it means to care deeply about learners. She has transformed our library into a thriving hub of learning and belonging, and she continues to inspire students and colleagues alike with her dedication. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend her for the Educator Distinction Award.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sheppard

Colonel Gray Art Teacher

My few sentences about Mrs. Stetson could never capture how much she has truly helped her students. With unconditional kindness and an open mind, she supported us not only academically but personally. She was the person who taught me how to believe in myself.

During some of the hardest times in my life, Mrs. Stetson was the one I could turn to. She never judged or turned me away; instead, she listened and encouraged me to make good choices. She reminded me that I was capable of much more than I believed.

I only got to know Mrs. Stetson after she had shifted from the English wing to the library downstairs, a decision that I know wasn't easy. I hope she knows that the right decision was made. It's important to realize that each student doesn't get the chance to know every English teacher, but every student does get to meet the librarian of their school, and we were all lucky to have felt her impact. In her library, she created a space where learning feels like a place of comfort rather than pressure. I always felt safe and supported there, both as a student and as a person. Because of her, I became confident enough to keep going even when I didn't want to. Today, I'm a university student studying in Nova Scotia! Mrs. Stetson gave me courage, hope, and the reminder that I am brave enough to do hard things. Through my studies and throughout my life, I carry her lessons with me, lessons that I know will stay with me forever.

Lex Schroeter
October 3, 2025

Educator Distinction Award Nomination 2025
for Christie Stetson
Teacher Librarian, Colonel Gray High School

October 8th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in nomination of Christie Stetson for the Educator Distinction Award. Not only is she an exceptionally inclusive and exemplary educator, she is an all-around terrific human. I have worked with Christie for over a decade, and have witnessed her regularly go beyond her duties to be helpful and kind and know she would be honoured to receive this recognition.

Christie has transformed our school library into a learning commons where all who enter feel welcome, seen and supported. The walls are filled with artwork, posters and flags representative of her inclusive practices. Behind the desk is a pride flag accompanied by signs that promote “All are welcome here”. She decorates seasonally, recognizing the many cultural practices and celebrations of our school community. She rotates a display area of books, featuring works that promote Indigenous voices, black history, Canadian authors, LGBTQ content, graphic novels and various world views and perspectives, showcasing that everyone in our school can see themselves represented in print. When you walk into the library, she greets you with a warm smile and a “How can I help you?” and will assist all who enter however is needed.

She is incredibly supportive and attentive to the needs of learners and offers the library as a versatile learning space. Taking learning styles and accommodations into consideration, she has equipped the library with various seating options and soft lighting, quiet work spaces and conference rooms, whiteboards, art and school supplies. The shelves are lined with many resources and books, and she is constantly adding to the library catalog. Every year she adds to the items available for use: laptops, headsets, audio and video recording devices, lighting, a Cricket, laminator, photo copier, projectors, and devices and gadgets of all sorts to entice further exploration and learning, and she offers guided lessons and tutorials so all can use them.

Additionally, she has started new initiatives in our school such as clothing swaps, book clubs, workshop Wednesdays, and open-mic lunch hours, which entice student engagement. In her role, she also supports staff professional development and assists with providing resources and supporting instruction. Staff can book the library space as a larger classroom, and Christie offers many guided lessons or will team-teach a concept. One of her most popular offerings is a book sampling where students are exposed to many selections in different genres to better guide their independent reading.

Christie is an active presence in our school and works to better the lives of others any way she can. She does a tremendous job of creating a safe and positive environment for everyone and her actions and behaviour encourage others to be the best they can be, which greatly enhances our school community and all who know her. She deserves to be recognized for her dedication and effort.

Sincerely,

Sarah Charlton
Vice Principal, Colonel Gray



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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Laura Lindsay and I am the Athletic Director at Colonel Gray High School. I am writing this letter to nominate our teacher-librarian, Christie Stetson, for the PEI Literacy Alliance Educator Distinction Award. Christie has been Colonel Gray's teacher-librarian for the past five years, and in that time she has transformed the Colonel Gray library into a space that is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible to students. From diversifying our library collection, to providing a space for students to meet, study and volunteer– Christie is a pillar of Colonel Gray's teaching staff.

Colonel Gray is an incredibly diverse school. We have over one thousand students in our building, with over sixty countries represented. It's important that our learning spaces reflect that diversity, and Christie has embraced the task of making sure all of our students feel reflected in their reading choices. At any point in the school year, you can enter the Colonel Gray library and see displays that reflect different holidays, recognition days or months, and support for marginalized groups.

She also teaches four blocks of peer helping, which pairs students with their peers in classes for support. This is a huge undertaking, and she is an excellent facilitator of the program, ensuring students are placed in appropriate classrooms to not only meet the needs of the classroom teacher, but also the needs of the peer helper. Through Christie's support and guidance, many of these students flourish in the classrooms they're placed in.

The Colonel Gray library is a reflection of all of the best parts of our school, and Christie is the reason for that. I've attached a letter from a former student that puts into words much better than I can, the impact she's had on students.

Sincerely,

Laura Lindsay
Athletic Director
Colonel Gray High School
Lmlindsay@edu.pe.ca