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CARLI Announces Recipients of Building Diversity Graduate Assistantships

The Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) is pleased to announce that Ysanne Johnson and Anita Sharma have been selected as the Building Diversity graduate assistants for academic year 2024–2025. They will complete their work at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Chicago History Museum, and Loyola University Chicago. The assistantships will provide experience, mentoring, and networking to participants with the goal of increasing the number staff members from underrepresented groups at Illinois' two and four-year public and private college and university libraries.

CARLI's Building Diversity Assistantship Program (BDGAP) seeks to improve equity, diversity, and inclusion in Illinois academic libraries by supporting persons from traditionally underrepresented minority groups who are enrolled in the master's degree program in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with positions at CARLI member libraries. The assistantships, being awarded for just the second time this year, provide a small stipend and tuition.

"I am so grateful to CARLI for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Building Diversity Graduate Assistantship," said 2024–2025 recipients Ysanne Johnson. "I believe this experience in the coming school year has the potential to affect my education and career journey in the best ways. I look forward to gaining invaluable knowledge that will further my scholarship in the expression of Black culture and the curation of modern cultural artifacts."

Recipient Anita Sharma stated "I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to participate in the CARLI Building Diversity Assistantship. This opportunity means the world to me, as it allows me to fulfill a longstanding dream. Being able to learn directly from my host institutions, especially in areas that deeply resonate with my passions, will undoubtedly shape my understanding of the profound impact librarianship can have in driving social change. I am eager to gain hands-on experience and insight into how reference, access, and technical infrastructures can actively contribute to fostering this change."

Funding for the program for academic year 2024–2025 is provided by CARLI and the University of Illinois System. CARLI member libraries hosting graduate assistants for the 2024–2025 academic year are Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Chicago History Museum, and Loyola University Chicago.

Anne Craig, CARLI Senior Director noted "I am thrilled that CARLI and the University of Illinois System Office continues to be supportive of this program. We are incredibly grateful to these member libraries hosting the graduate assistants beginning in the fall, and we are confident that these two exceptional students will value this opportunity for learning, growth, and exploration of the profession."

Johnson and Sharma were selected through an application process that included a description of how their underrepresented status influenced personal and academic development, an overview of their personal and professional goals, and a video interview with staff from the host libraries and CARLI.

For more information about the Building Diversity Graduate Assistantship Program, visit the CARLI web site at <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/prof-devel/carli-building-diversity-graduate-assistantship-program>

About the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois

The Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) provides library services, resources, and support to 126 Illinois public universities, community colleges, private colleges and universities, and special libraries. CARLI empowers Illinois academic and research libraries to build and sustain an accessible, diverse, and responsive knowledge environment that promotes excellence and innovation in teaching, learning, and research. CARLI adds value for all member libraries by sharing costs, collections, expertise, programs, products, and services. CARLI is a unit of the University of Illinois System, <https://www.uillinois.edu/>.

For more information, visit <http://www.carli.illinois.edu>.