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Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship Winners Announced

For the second year, nine booksellers from communities across the United States will attend independent booksellers' association trade shows with scholarships supplied by [Macmillan Publishers](#) through the [Book Industry Charitable \(Binc\) Foundation](#). These Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarships provide professional development opportunities to booksellers traditionally underrepresented within the industry.

The nine winners of the 2018 Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship are:

Jeffrey Blair from Eyeseeme African American Children's Bookstore in University City, MO.

Annie Carl from The Neverending Bookshop in Bothell WA.

Kayla Chang from Warwick's in La Jolla, CA.

Drew Durham from Books, Inc in Burlingame, CA.

Katie Formosi from The Book Rack in Newburyport, MA.

Rebecca Fortes from Nicola's Books in Ann Arbor, MI.

Julie Jarema from Avid Bookshop in Athens, GA.

Veronica Liu from Word Up Community Bookshop in New York City.

Cristina Rodriguez from Deep Vellum Books in Dallas, TX.

Each winner will receive a \$500 scholarship to help cover the cost of attendance to the fall regional show in their area.

The Macmillan Diversity & Inclusion Council and Binc's diversity task force created the Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship Program in 2017 as a way to

provide booksellers in under-represented groups direct access to a key resource within the book industry, the Fall Regional Shows.

Applicants, including people of color, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities, completed several short essay questions which were evaluated by a panel of judges. Winners were selected from each of the nine regions represented by independent booksellers associations: [Great Lakes](#), [Midwest](#), [Mountains and Plains](#), [New Atlantic](#), [Northern California](#), [New England](#), [Pacific Northwest](#), [Southern California](#), and [Southern](#).

The panel of judges included Kat Brzozowski, Editor, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group and Co-Chair, Macmillan Diversity & Inclusion Council Committee; Kim Brock, Bookseller at Joseph-Beth Booksellers; Andrea Vuleta, Executive Director of the Southern California Independent Booksellers Association; and Ken White, Publisher of Query Books and Binc Board Member.

The program received a 30% increase in applications over the previous year. "There were so many worthy options to choose from," said judge Kat Brzozowski. "We're really excited for this opportunity and happy to support booksellers in this important endeavor."

Pam French, Binc Executive Director, remarked, "We were thrilled with the number and variety of applications received this year. The bookselling community is a collection of wonderfully diverse individuals, anxious to share ideas and experiences with their colleagues. All of the winners are doing their part to create a more inclusive environment and help strengthen the book industry."

"Broader representation within booksellers helps us reach a broader audience; being able to support Binc and booksellers in this way makes this a win-win for all," said Don Weisberg, President, Macmillan Publishers.

About The Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that coordinates charitable programs to strengthen the bookselling community. Established in 1996, the core program provides assistance to bookstore employees who have a demonstrated financial need arising from severe hardship and/or emergency circumstances.

Since its inception, the organization has provided over \$6.5 million in financial assistance and scholarships to more than 7,300 families. Support for the Foundation's programs and services come from all sectors of the book industry. The Book Industry Charitable Foundation's mission is to strengthen the bookselling community through charitable programs that support employees and their families. The Foundation was imagined and built by booksellers and proudly continues to be their safety net. It is our vision to be a caring community of book people. Additional information can be found at <http://www.bincfoundation.org>.

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