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Miriam Rodriguez receives UNT Distinguished Alumni Award

Dallas Public Library Assistant Director honored for her achievements

DALLAS, TX – Miriam Rodriquez, Assistant Director of the Dallas Public Library, has received the 2007 University of North Texas (UNT) School of Library and Information Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. The award will be presented during the Texas Library Association Conference April 12 in San Antonio.

Rodriguez began her career as a 16-year old library page in Havana, Cuba, where she was also an avid library user. Arriving with her family to Texas in 1983, she worked as a baker, practiced her English, and spent a lot of time in the library. “The Dallas Public Library was the first place my mother-in-law took me,” she said. “I was amazed that you could take so many things home.”

Six years later, while working for the Small Business Development Center, she got her first U.S. library job, as an assistant for the Garland Public Library, the job that eventually led to her enrollment at UNT.

After graduating in 1997, she joined the Dallas Public Library, and in 2001 was hired by the Irving Public Library as multicultural services supervisor. She returned to Dallas in 2004, as the city’s first multicultural coordinator, and was named assistant director in 2006.

Rodriguez is a member of the American Library Association, the Texas Library Association and a board member of DFW International. In 2005, she was one of only 25 librarians nationwide to receive the “Mover and Shaker” award from the Library Journal.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented to UNT graduates who have brought honor to themselves and to the School of Library and Information Sciences through outstanding accomplishments.

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