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Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship Winners Announced

Nine booksellers from communities across the United States will attend independent booksellers' association trade shows with scholarships provided by [Macmillan Publishers](#) through the [Book Industry Charitable \(Binc\) Foundation](#). Their attendance will be made possible by The Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship, a pilot program providing professional development to booksellers traditionally underrepresented within the industry.

Dozens of booksellers applied for scholarships through the new program, which will provide \$500 to attend a regional trade show. Each scholarship can be used to cover the cost of travel, lodging and meals.

Applicants, including people of color, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities, completed several short essay questions which were evaluated by a panel comprised of Binc board members, booksellers, bookstore owners, and publishers. 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](#), [Southern](#).

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

Sarah Sorensen from Bookbug in Kalamazoo, MI.

Celia Mattison from Milkweed Books in Minneapolis, MN.

Makena Burner from Bookworm of Edwards in Edwards, CO.

Sarah Murray from The Doylestown Bookshop in Doylestown, PA.

Jorge Squarzon from Books, Inc in Burlington, CA.

Katie Formosi from The Book Rack in Newburyport, MA.

Avery Peregrine from Third Place Books in Seattle, WA.

Vanessa Montero from Skylight Books in Los Angeles, CA.

Purvis Cornish from Square Books in Oxford, MS.

Binc and Macmillan introduced this pilot program following recurring requests and the results of the Binc Bookseller Survey 2016, which speak to the need for diverse booksellers in addition to more diverse books on shelves across the country. The Macmillan Diversity & Inclusion Council worked alongside Binc's diversity task force to provide booksellers in under-represented groups more options for valuable enrichment and ideally long careers within the book industry. The panel of judges for the scholarship included Angus Killick, Co-chair, Macmillan Diversity & Inclusion Council, VP, Associate Publisher, MCPG, Denise Chavez, owner of Casa Camino Real Book Store and Art Gallery, Erica Merrell, owner of Wild Iris Books, and Binc board members Matthew Gildea, Book Team Business Director at Joseph-Beth Booksellers and Board VP; and Christie Roehl, Chair Binc Programs Committee and Board Secretary.

Choosing the winning booksellers wasn't an easy task, according to Killick.

"The personal testimonies were all very compelling and I had a tough time rating the applications," he said. "These booksellers are incredibly committed to what they do, and the difference they know they can make."

Binc Executive Director Pamela French said it's important for organizations to work together to support diversity.

"Creating positive changes to increase diversity is a shared responsibility in the bookselling industry. Partnering to help diverse booksellers participate in the important conversations taking place at regional gatherings is a great way for Binc and Macmillan to leverage their resources," she said. "There's so much good we can do when we work together."

Booksellers are already showing a positive response to the program, "This is amazing!!! We've been hoping for such a thing. You all are really hitting it out of the park," said Janet Geddis of Avid Bookshop.

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 million in financial assistance and scholarships to more than 7,100 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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