Long Branch Free Public Library

David Perez, MSW

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David Perez is the first social worker hired directly by a public library in the state of New Jersey. This is David's third career. He served ten years in the U.S. Army, over fifteen years in the healthcare business, two years as a social work intern while in graduate school, and now is a library social worker at the Long Branch Free Public Library.

He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Healthcare Management from American Intercontinental University and his Master of Social Work with a concentration in International and Community Development from Monmouth University. David is the former president of the New Jersey Library Association's Diversity and Outreach Section.

Mr. Perez is also a former member of the Public Library Association's Library Social Work Task Force, along with several other social workers across the country. He also supervises Monmouth and Rutgers social work student interns.

He was instrumental in the success of Fade to Books after it was assigned to him as an intern. The program was such a success in Long Branch, NJ, that the New Jersey State Library decided to adopt the pilot program and introduce it state wide, by offering a grant for public libraries to duplicate the program in their municipalities. David has also written a chapter that was published in the 5th edition of "Days in the Lives of Social Workers" on social work in libraries.

Mr. Perez currently coordinates the Monmouth County "Recconection Center" for the re-entry population as well as the Fresh Start @ Your Library Program in Long Branch, NJ.