

Academic Innovator Award 2016 Press Release

The “From Our Collections Group,” made up of University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (UMTC) library assistants Kaia Sievert, Becky Adamski, Amber Fick, and Danika Stegeman, is the recipient of the 2016 Academic Innovators Award. This award recognizes academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to advance the missions of academic libraries in Minnesota through innovative projects, programs, or services.

The “From Our Collections Group” encourages leisure reading for students, faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. They have created book displays highlighting popular fiction available, organized a summer reading program, and designed a book matchmaking service to correspond with their “Blind Date with a Book” display. The group has also organized a number of “pop-up libraries” at various campus locations including the Recreation Center and the campus farmers market.

Phil Dudas, UMTC Information Services Manager, wrote in his nomination that the group members “come to work each day with an eager passion to learn” and that their work “has energized many staff and reminded them of the value of continuing to explore and push the boundaries of our role in our community.”

The “From Our Collections Group” was recognized and presented with the award at ARLD Day 2016.

The award is sponsored by the Academic & Research Libraries Division (ARLD) of the Minnesota Library Association. ARLD is a division of the Minnesota Library Association, and is also the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) chapter in Minnesota. ARLD’s purpose is to identify and seek solutions to mutual problems on the academic and research library level of librarianship, to improve services to encourage development of librarians, and to stimulate cooperation among libraries.