

PRESS RELEASE – SHELLY FINZEN

Shelly Finzen Receives Inaugural Sparkle Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shelly Finzen Honored for Transforming Tyler Public Library and Inspiring Community Growth

The Minnesota Library Association's Small & Rural Libraries Roundtable has named **Shelly Finzen**, Library Director of Tyler Public Library and member of the Plum Creek Library System, as the inaugural recipient of the **Sparkle Award**.

The Sparkle Award celebrates the creativity, dedication, and impact of staff serving small and rural libraries throughout Minnesota.

As the sole staff member at Tyler Public Library, Finzen revitalized the library's collection, expanded programming opportunities, established community partnerships, secured funding for innovative programs, and increased access to library services for residents throughout Lincoln County.

Her accomplishments include organizing cultural and educational programs that reached far beyond the library's walls and building partnerships with local organizations, schools, arts groups, and community leaders.

When toxic mold rendered the existing library building unusable, Finzen took on an even greater challenge: leading efforts to build a new library facility without creating additional tax burdens for local residents. Through grant funding, private donations, and community support, she successfully secured the resources needed to make the project a reality.

The new Tyler Public Library is expected to open later this year, ensuring library services will continue for generations to come.

Finzen's leadership, perseverance, and commitment to her community embody the spirit of the Sparkle Award and demonstrate the vital role small libraries play across Minnesota.

About the Minnesota Library Association

The Minnesota Library Association advances excellence in library services, supports library workers across the state, and promotes equitable access to information for all Minnesotans.

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