

Ann Walker Smalley Receives William G. Asp Distinguished Career Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ann Walker Smalley Honored for Decades of Library Leadership

The Minnesota Library Association has named **Ann Walker Smalley of Metronet** the recipient of the **2026 William G. Asp Distinguished Career Award**.

The award recognizes distinguished service, innovative leadership, and significant contributions to the advancement of libraries.

Smalley has served libraries at the local, state, and national levels during her many years of service. During her 23 years with Metronet, including 18 years as Director, she has led initiatives that have transformed professional development, leadership training, advocacy, and collaboration opportunities for library workers throughout Minnesota.

Her leadership helped create and strengthen numerous programs, including the Minnesota Libraries Learning Network, Library Leadership Forum, Minnesota Library Futures Initiative, and other influential statewide efforts.

Smalley has also been a tireless library advocate, helping modernize MLA advocacy efforts and creating resources that continue to support libraries today.

Known for her optimism, mentorship, strategic thinking, and passion for libraries, Smalley has dedicated her career to helping library workers and organizations thrive.

The Minnesota Library Association proudly recognizes her extraordinary contributions to the profession and to Minnesota's library community.

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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