



**MINNESOTA LIBRARY**  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, please contact the MLA office at 612-294-6549 or [mla@management-hq.com](mailto:mla@management-hq.com).

### **Maggie Snow honored by the Minnesota Library Association in recognition of her leadership and dedication to the organization**

October 18, 2018 – Maggie Snow was awarded the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) William G. Asp Distinguished Career Award at the Association’s annual conference, held this year in St. Cloud, Minn. This award is presented in recognition of significant and major contributions by members to the work of MLA.

Anoka County Library Director, Maggie Snow, has worked in libraries for over 20 years. She has been very involved in MLA and served as MLA president in 2015. She is dedicated to serving patrons in new and forward-thinking ways. Through Snow’s leadership and vision, she has ushered in an era where staff work differently as community needs change and evolve.

Snow has challenged staff to see the library as a service and not a place. Through this motto, staff have formed community partnerships and increased library visibility greatly in the community. Snow’s leadership has seen an extraordinary partnership with the Anoka County Parks Department flourish. This past summer the Library and Parks Department published their first joint event guide which is not only visually stunning but increased the library’s reach significantly through a dispersal of 10,000 additional guides; allowing the library to tap into a population that might not otherwise utilize library services. The Anoka County Library is proud of this partnership and is happy to say when the Parks Department is in their planning stages, they are now thinking of the library.

Snow has been instrumental in the planning, development, and execution of the Centennial Library expansion project. Her vision has guided the architects, facilities planners, and staff throughout the process of building what she deems a “knowledge park.” This library will boast an I.Q. Kitchen demonstration kitchen where people of all ages can take part in STEM activities, learn about healthy cooking and food literacy, and build community. The new Centennial Library will also have an outdoor programming space where kids and adults can build nature literacy skills.

Snow has also created an art committee, made up of community members, for the Centennial Library, which will curate art collections to be featured on displays within the stacks. Because wall space is at a minimum in the new building, Snow has found a creative way to showcase cultural artifacts to library users. She intends for the art displays to enrich patrons’ library experiences by creating a place of contemplation and curiosity.

The Anoka County Library is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, and Snow has once again pushed the envelope and developed a poet laureate program to commemorate the occasion.

“Snow sees her staff as experts. She has urged all staff to see themselves in the same way. She has confidence in the Anoka County Library staff; empowering them to try new things,” said Jacquie Kramer, Anoka County Library Assistant Director.



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Snow has also shown staff how to plan and think intentionally using logic models to chart outcomes and end results. As part of embracing the recognition of staff expertise, Maggie has plans to catalog staff expertise so that patrons can utilize the information staff can provide in the same way one might utilize the information found in a database or book.

Through Snow's vision of a library where staff develops services for their patrons, the library has embraced a team model where staff members with similar interests and expertise collaborate to find ways develop and nourish services that benefit patrons and the community. One of the most successful teams at Anoka County Library has been the Social Media Team. The team increased the Library's social media presence by 25% from the following year by staying active on two major platforms with regular daily posting and thereby becoming a relevant knowledge source in the library industry.

One of Snow's most innovative initiatives to date has been a workload analysis of library staff. Snow's belief is you can't manage what you haven't measured. The study has yielded valuable data that will guide future staffing strategies. She is not afraid to try new things to benefit the whole.

Snow was honored at the 2018 Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference on October 11-12, 2018.

**About MLA:** The Minnesota Library Association is an association of library supporters, representing all types of libraries by helping them accomplish together what none can do alone. MLA provides opportunities to meet library peers and associates, and meets the interests of its more than 730 members by facilitating educational opportunities, supporting strong ethical standards, and fostering connections between the library community and various constituencies. In addition to the annual conference, programs are planned and sponsored year-round by MLA divisions, sections, roundtables, and committees. Find out more at [www.mnllibraryassociation.org](http://www.mnllibraryassociation.org).