



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

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**Kathleen James honored by the Minnesota Library Association
in recognition of her leadership and dedication to the organization**

Oct. 12, 2016 – Kathleen James was awarded the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) William G. Asp Distinguished Career Award at the Association’s annual conference, held this year in Duluth, Minn. This award is presented in recognition of significant and major contributions of members to the work of the MLA.

James has been selected as the recipient of this award for her enthusiastic work for Minnesota librarians and the communities they serve, with her strongest impact being in the realm of youth library services. Before the Minnesota State Library Services had youth services consultants, Kathleen worked with the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators as the de facto state-wide youth services consultant. She brought consistency and rigor to the summer programs for children and young people offered in libraries in small and large communities throughout Minnesota. James accomplished this by skillfully facilitating consensus among library staff throughout the state.

James is the Youth Services and Project Manager at the Metropolitan Library Service Agency. In addition to her influential work on summer reading programs, James has been a leader in early literacy skills and parent education. James worked with colleagues from MLA’s Children and Young People’s™ Section to write a successful Library Services and Technology Act grant. The grant focused on bringing research-based best practices for incorporating literacy activities into traditional story times in Minnesota libraries. James initiated Camp Read-a-Lot, an annual professional development opportunity for teachers in regional library systems.

James served as MLA President in 2010. Her innovative ideas and energetic spirit revolutionized the MLA annual conference and committee work and attracted many new members. Currently Kathleen is co-chairing the MLA 125 anniversary celebration committee.

James was honored at the 2016 Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference on September 29, 2016.

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 two-day conference, programs are planned and sponsored year-round by MLA divisions, sections, roundtables, and committees. Find out more at www.mnllibraryassociation.org.