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**Dawn Lyons honored by the Minnesota Library Association  
in recognition of her defense of intellectual freedom**

Oct. 12, 2016 – Dawn Lyons was awarded the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Lars Steltzner Intellectual Freedom Award at the Association's annual conference, held this year in Duluth, MN. This award is presented in recognition of an educator who has contributed to preserving students' rights to intellectual freedom and opposing censorship in a school setting.

Lyons, a school library media specialist at Deerwood Elementary and Black Hawk Middle School, has been selected as the recipient of this award for her active role in successfully defending the implementation of ISD 196's selection policy when the book, "Just One Day," by Gayle Forman was challenged for its inclusion in a middle school library.

Lyons stated that she respected parents' right to restrict their own children's reading, but she did not believe parents had the right to prevent other children from reading books of their choosing. As quoted in the local newspaper, Lyons said, "The real issue here is the freedom of choice of all library patrons." Following due process for reconsideration of materials, a committee of eleven parents, teachers, school librarians, and administrators decided to keep the book in the middle school libraries.

Lyons 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 900 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](http://www.mnllibraryassociation.org).