



Valley City Barnes County Public Library  
410 Central Ave N  
Valley City, ND 58072  
845-3821  
support@vcblibrary.org

NDLA Legislative Committee  
c/o North Dakota State Library  
604 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept 250  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0800

RE: Library Champion Award

Dear NDLA Legislative Committee,

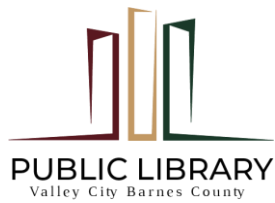
The Valley City Barnes County Public Library staff would like to Nominate a Library Champion Award to Professor Hilde Van Gijssel (pronounced Hilda Van Highsell). Hilde is the VCBC Public Library Board President, serving her second term as President. Her love of libraries, reading, and providing education to youth are all many reasons to nominate her, but she is also passionate advocate for the VCBC Public Library.

Hilde has been helping the VCBC Public Library for ten years now, providing STEAM activities during the Summer Learning Program. Encouraging Valley City/Barnes County youth to build cars out of recycled materials, make elephant toothpaste, and explore The Scientific Method, while also supporting the arts, by serving on the Bridges Arts Council, and International Music Camp's boards.

As board president, she's been a key player in keeping the VCBC Public Library relevant, this past year when dealing with a difficult book challenge, she was a voice of support to staff, a vocal advocate on policy implementation and handling, dealing with both the city and county commissioners who wanted to circumvent policy procedure. She championed patron's rights of intellectual freedom and ALA's Freedom to Read Statement.

Everyone on staff loves Hilde, they know at any time if they need support to contact her. For example, a patron was being difficult and argumentative, she was contacted when leadership was unavailable, Hilde came to the library to support staff and diffuse the situation.

She is forward-thinking and supportive of the library's future wants and needs, while being mindful of the library's historic preservation. Hilde goes out of her way to make staff feel valued and important to the organization, fighting for pay increases for staff salaries.



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There are many more reasons why Hilde is a nominee for the Library Champion Award, but she is simply wonderful, the VCBC Library is grateful every day for her kindness, diligence, and smiling face.

With Warm regards,

Melissa Lloyd  
Assistant Director  
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410 Central AVE N  
Valley City, ND 58072  
701-845-3821  
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