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I would like all the staff of the VCBC Public library to stand up. These are the people that are the  $\mathcal{A}$  work actual champions as they are the front line and are doing the work. My job as board member is simply to make sure they can do their job and do it well. Board members are, however, an important part of the function of a library and it is an honor to serve.

In the last year I have learned the most important lesson of being a board member. And that is to trust our staff, to trust they are the experts in what a community needs and finds interesting, trust they know how to find the book the patron wants sometimes with little or no information to go on, to trust the staff to know what is best for the community, to trust they will never harm or make people uncomfortable on purpose, on the contrary I trust the staff to make everybody feel welcome and safe in our library. But most of all I trust the expertise of the staff in collection development, programming and serving the community. They have the training and the knowledge. You are the real heroes and champions (all of you), not me. And my pledge is to continue to honor that trust and to be your champion to make sure you can keep doing your job and doing it well.

Thank you NDLA for providing essential support to libraries across ND. Thank you VCBC Public Library staff for nominating me. I am absolutely honored and humbled to receive this award. Thank you!