

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ImagineIF Welcomes New Library Director

Kalispell, MT – ImagineIF Libraries is excited to welcome their new Library Director Ashley Cummins. The ImagineIF Library Board of Trustees started their search for a new Director after former Library Director Connie Behe resigned in July of 2021. Ashley joins ImagineIF from Russellville Public Library in Northwest Alabama where she's been a staff member since 2009 and served as director since 2014. During her tenure as library director, Ashley worked in collaboration with library staff, board, elected officials, and community members to build an award-winning library in her small town.

Ashley is passionate about the important role of public libraries in developing vibrant and engaged communities. She has served on numerous community boards, committees, and councils including the Kids and Kin program, Franklin County Advisory Board, the Relay for Life Executive Planning Committee, the Bicentennial Planning Committee, Quality Control Board for Department of Human Resources, and the Policy Council for Community Action Partnership.

Ashley holds membership in the American Library Association (Youth Services, Intellectual Freedom, International Relations, United for Libraries Roundtables), Public Library Association, The Association of Rural and Small Libraries, South Eastern Library Association, and the Alabama Library Association (Multicultural Information, Intellectual Freedom Roundtables, Public Library Division).

She previously served as Moderator of the Multicultural Information round table for the Alabama Library Association, and has served on the Executive Council during her tenure as Member at Large for 22 counties in North Alabama. She has served on the Oboler award committee and program committee through the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable of ALA.

Ashley was drawn to the Director position at ImagineIF due to the Library's award-winning work, the passionate library staff and supportive community, as well as the beautiful geographic location of the Flathead Valley. Ashley hopes to work together with the library staff, the ImagineIF Libraries Board, the ImagineIF Library Foundation, Friends of ImagineIF Libraries, Flathead County Commissioners, and community members to continue the great work at the library. She looks forward to achieving existing goals and developing new opportunities that deepen the library's roots in the community.

Ashley said, "It is my sincere wish to bring my acquired knowledge, my broad experience, and my love of community to Flathead County and to your library. I want you to know that I will work hard every single day to be a strong advocate for the library and all of its users."

Ashley is expected to start as Director of ImagineIF Libraries on March 7th, 2022.

ImagineIF Libraries' mission is to provide safe and fair access to information for everyone in Flathead County. For more information, visit www.imagineiflibraries.org.

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