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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 21, 2018

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**Anythink staff member wins Colorado Libraries for
Early Literacy award**
Rising Star Award recognizes exceptional work in early literacy

THORNTON, Colo.–Nov. 21, 2018–Anythink Wright Farms children’s guide Julie Crabb has been awarded the 2018 [Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy](#) (CLEL) Rising Star Award. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional work in the field of early literacy and serve as an inspiration to colleagues in the field. CLEL is an organization committed to strengthening children’s literacy through library services and community advocacy across the state.

Crabb was nominated for this award for her passion and dedication to supporting early literacy opportunities for children in the community. As a children’s guide at [Anythink Wright Farms](#), Crabb leads programming and creative learning experiences for babies, toddlers and children of all ages. Her creative and innovative approach to early literacy – from baby-wearing dance classes to Beyoncé lap bounces during storytime – are celebrated as experiences that engage both children and caregivers.

“Brain development for a young child depends largely on a loving relationship with a primary caregiver, so I have always wanted to create spaces and programming that encourage grown-ups to bond with their children,” says Crabb. “After having a child of my own, I quickly realized that the experiences we provide should be exciting for the grown-ups in the room, too. These shared experiences are more likely to encourage early literacy practices in the home. At Anythink, we open doors for curious minds, and that mission has allowed me to offer programming and services that are wholly engaging, out-of-the-box, messy, and sometimes ridiculous for our growing community.”

Crabb is also recognized for her volunteer work with Storytime Underground, a group of library and early childhood education professionals who promote the motto “literacy is not a luxury” through advocacy focused especially on underserved communities.

“We are thrilled that Julie is the recipient of the CLEL Rising Star Award,” says Suzanne McGowan, Anythink director of customer experience. “Julie’s dedication to providing the youngest members of our community with vital early literacy skills sets them up for

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future success. Her ability to connect with caregivers provides them with the confidence needed to continue developing those skills at home.”

About Anythink™

Anythink is a new style of library – a place of unlimited imagination, where play inspires creativity and lifelong learning. Anythink serves the residents of Adams County, Colo., with seven libraries and a bookmobile. With a focus on innovation, Anythink’s award-winning approach to library service is recognized by industry leaders and organizations across the globe. For more information, visit anythinklibraries.org.

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