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McAllen SHINES Champion Awarded to McAllen Public Library *Recognition highlights lasting impact on the community*

Under the direction of the Public Works Department, the McAllen SHINES Champion Award was presented to the McAllen Public Library (MPL) for its ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of residents through literacy and engagement.

There is no age limit when it comes to discovering something new. From baby story time to teens preparing for an exam, a parent searching for resources or a resident looking for a welcoming place to spend the day, MPL meets people exactly where they are.

Beyond its bookshelves, the library offers computers, study rooms, a family room, children's spaces, educational programs, community events and the tools needed to thrive.

"Literacy is one of the foundations of a strong community," said City Manager Isaac J. Tawil. "When families walk into our library, they are not simply checking out a book; they are accessing knowledge, technology and educational opportunities that can help them move forward. By making these services and programs available to everyone, our library helps strengthen our community one reader, one family and one discovery at a time."

"Every day, I walk these halls and see the smiles and excitement on the faces of the people who come through our doors," said Library Director Kate Horan. "Those moments remind me why this work matters. Knowing our team is creating a lifelong love of reading, sparking curiosity or simply making a person's day is incredibly rewarding. I am grateful to lead a team that gets to make those moments happen every day."

The McAllen SHINES Community Award recognizes organizations that demonstrate civic pride, environmental stewardship and a measurable impact on quality of life.

The award comes as we are celebrating National Library Card Sign-Up Month. Residents are encouraged to visit MPL and discover the many ways it can become part of their own story.

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About the City of McAllen

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing cities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Known as the "City of Palms," McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley. Today, the city employs more than 2,600 dedicated public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. McAllen city leaders remain committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net and follow us on social media @cityofmcallen