

meet our board members

Sara Cole

President & CEO at Duluth Area Family YMCA



Sara Cole is proud to be the first female President & CEO of the Duluth Area Family YMCA where she leads an innovative group of change agents to offer key programs and services to communities across Minnesota. The Duluth Area Family YMCA offers services in youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility to more than 25,000 people each year through its 5 branches and the work that it does in neighborhoods throughout Northern Minnesota. In addition, the Duluth Area Family YMCA provides support to YMCAs across the country in the areas of finance, afterschool, teen programming, and early education.

A professor of literature and feminist theory by education, of Sara began her Y career in the Community Services branch of the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, and then served as the Senior Vice President of Program Development & Innovation at the YMCA of Greater Rochester in New York before taking on her current role in Minnesota. Sara is deeply committed to the furthering the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and is proud to work with YMCAs across the state, and nationally, to improve program services for all people. Under Sara's leadership, the Duluth Area Family YMCA has deepened local and national partnerships, increased its food access work, developed a robust service delivery model, and opened its newest branch (debt free) in November. Sara is proud to serve on the board of the Minnesota State Alliance of YMCAs, and on the YMCA's National LGBTQ+ ERG Steering Committee.

Sara is a novice wildlife rehabilitator with expertise in rehabilitating infant Eastern Cottontails. She can also be found reading book books, lifting big weights, and spending time with her husband, Andrew, and their feisty pets Dracula and Cannoli.

Thanks for your service Sara!