

CO-8

Mountain Plains Library Association
Professional Development Grants Committee Report

October 2002

As you are aware, appointments to the Professional Development Grants Committee are by calendar year. So far this year the committee has met via conference call in February, April, June, and August. Since most of the committee members will not be attending the Fargo conference, we will meet via conference call on October 9 and will have our final meeting via conference call December 11.

So far this year we have awarded two regular grants of \$600 each. With financial help from MPLA, Amelia Shelley, Children's/Young Adult Services Division Manager for Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, Wyoming, attended an ALA pre-conference session in Atlanta on graphic novels. Amelia will be presenting a session at the Fargo conference based on what she learned in Atlanta. Alice Trussell, Director of Fiedler Engineering Library, Kansas State University, attended The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) 2002 Annual Conference and Exposition in Montreal, Canada. Both recipients expressed their appreciation to MPLA for financial assistance through the Professional Development Grant.

In addition to the two regular grants, the committee awarded a \$150 mini-grant to Cynthia Mielke, Library Associate at H. M. Briggs Library, South Dakota State University, who is pursuing an MLS from the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences.

In an effort to increase awareness of MPLA grant opportunities and encourage applications, a flyer was included with the conference newsletter and election ballots mailing.

The committee is excited about the five applications it has for consideration at the October meeting. We are hoping to be able to award the entire amount budgeted to Professional Development Grants this year.

It has been my pleasure to serve on this important committee the past two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Christensen, Chair
MPLA Professional Development Grants Committee