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Kansas Report to MPLA

Kansas Library Association
Mountain Plains Library Association Report October, 2005
Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

No Matter What author Debi Gliori is coming to Kansas during National Children's Book Week to deliver programs at 6 libraries in three days including Johnson County, Kansas City Kansas, Lawrence, Topeka/Shawnee County, Manhattan and Hiawatha. This will be a key element of the "Kansas Reads...to Preschoolers," One Book, One State project. Another will be the participation of the Honorary Chairperson, Governor Kathleen Sebelius, who is also planning to make site visits during the week.

Kansans were saddened to learn of the death of Patti Butcher's son last month. Patti served as the Kansas representative to MPLA for several years and was a member of the committee that developed the Leadership Institute. She left Kansas earlier this year to take the helm of the State Library of South Carolina.

The ribbon-cutting for the new home of the Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library was held on September 14. Governor Kathleen Sebelius joined John Y. Cole of the national Center for the Book, Library of Congress in Washington, DC; Kansas State Poet Laureate Jonathan Holden; State Librarian Christie Brandau; and others to do the honors. Roy Bird will serve as the Director

Kate Marek, was the featured presenter for an interactive video workshop sponsored by the Kansas Library Association Educational Foundation (KLAEF) and the Institute for Continuous Education (ICE) held on September 13. The workshop, entitled "Drop Your Tools and Build Your Future," focused on the core values of librarianship, the privileges and responsibilities of the library profession and strategies for exploiting the rapid change of our times to provide excellent, relevant customer service. Participants joined the workshop from 11 locations around the state accompanied by facilitators who led the discussions and reported back to the whole group. Desktop video hardware manufactured by Polycom was used to capture the video and audio and the Polycoms were connected by the KanREN MCU (Multipoint Control Unit).

ICE has also announced a new online course entitled "Providing Excellent Customer Service in a Multicultural Environment" that will be offered throughout the month of November as well as "ICED Coffee," a new online audio continuing education opportunity. The first conversation will be held on October 19 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. on the topic of "Revisiting the Library as Place."

The Kansas Library Association (KLA) has launched a membership incentive in conjunction with the American Library Association (ALA) for library support staff, paraprofessionals, and paraprofessionals. In it, staff is invited to become joint members of both ALA and KLA at a special dues rate of \$54.00/year. Joint members will have full rights and benefits of personal membership in both ALA and the state association. This special dues rate includes:

- membership in ALA and its Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT)
- membership in KLA and its paraprofessional round table, KPLACE

Dean Ann O'Neill of the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University (ESU) announced that the Library Services Certificate Program (LSCP) offered at SLIM through the Institute for Continuous Education (ICE) has been disbanded. This decision was based on extensive research to determine the assets and drawbacks of the LSCP, the reports from which are available on the SLIM website at http://slim.emporia.edu/about/pressreleases/dean_0805.htm .

Participants cited many positives in the program including:

- usefulness of the application of the library-skills course work to library work,
- improved job performance resulting from participating in the program,
- well-prepared instructors, who provided practical information,

- stimulating interaction and networking among peers,
- responsiveness of SLIM, ICE, LSCP staff to the needs of students, and,
- benefits of cooperation among SLIM/ICE, the State Library, and the regional library systems

Among the drawbacks were:

- low enrollment in classes
- credit vs. non-credit problems
- cost effectiveness for participants (costs for tuition, travel, lodging, and time from work were not offset by increases in salaries or promotions)
- length of time to complete a certificate (sometimes as much as two years), and
- inefficient funding

During its existence, 41 students were active in the program, 17 completed a certificate (8 Generalist, 4 Library Administration, 2 Information Sources & Services, 2 Youth Services, 1 Technology), and 45 different classes were offered.