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Nebraska MPLA Board Report
October 19, 2006

UNO Library Science Education Program receives Regents Award!

Hip Hip Hooray!!! The University of Nebraska Omaha's Library Science Education Program received a Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service to its Profession on Friday, September 8th. Dr. R. J. (Becky) Pasco, Associate Professor, College of Education and Coordinator of Library Science Education at the University of Nebraska Omaha is a current MPLA member. Additionally, in the latter part of September, Dr. Pasco organized two "Recruiting Road Trips" to highlight the Library Science education programs available in Nebraska that included four communities in Nebraska (North Platte, Scottsbluff, Norfolk and Valentine), as well as the South Dakota Library Association Annual Conference in Rapid City and the Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference in Gillette. Nebraska's Library Science education programs include undergraduate and graduate programs at UNO, the Community College Technical Assistant program, the UNO/Missouri cooperative Master of Education/School Library Media endorsement programs, and the upcoming UNO/Chadron State Masters of Education/School Library Media endorsement program set to begin in the Fall of 2007.

The wheels on the bus keep going 'round and 'round.

For the third year and supported in part by the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and granted by the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska's librarians will have the opportunity to join their colleagues on a bus trip to the 2007 joint conference of MPLA and the New Mexico Library Association being held in Albuquerque in March. Participants of previous bus trips have found the ride to be an excellent way to network with peers, catch up on their sleep, finish a book or watch a movie and to arrive rested, refreshed and ready to participate in all the excellent professional opportunities provided by the conference. The return ride to Nebraska also offers an opportunity to process information from the conference and share session information with one's peers. The price is right too as, in the past, the transportation has been provided free of charge to Nebraska librarians.
2012 joint MPLA/NLA/NEMA conference.

At the NLA Board meeting held in Broken Bow September 8, 2006 a motion was made by the Continuing Education Committee to not include Iowa Library Association in the 2012 MPLA/NLA/NEMA conference. Discussion was held. The motion was passed. The NLA Board wishes, however, to thank the MPLA board for giving its unanimous support to NLA efforts to explore having Iowa be a part of the 2012 joint conference.

2006 Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute

It was rewarding to have seven NLA applicants for the 2006 Leadership Institute. It was additionally rewarding to have three of the applicants invited to attend and for them to accept the invitation. Congratulations to Scott Childers, Sarah English and Joanne Ferguson Cavanaugh. The NLA Board voted to support these candidates and the Institute by contributing \$450 to each candidate's registration fee.

NLA/NEMA 2006 Annual Conference

The conference will be held October 25-27 at Omaha's Qwest Center. Thursday's keynote speaker is Stephen Abram, Vice President of Innovation, SirsiDynix. Friday's keynote will be presented by Nancy Pearl; Librarian, Author and Book Reviewer. In addition to the keynote speakers, conference attendees will be able to select from 35 different breakout sessions each day. The NLA/NEMA Awards banquet will take place Thursday evening and after the banquet there will be music by "The Usual Suspects" featuring NLA Lobbyist Ken Winston and various and assorted other "Usual Suspects". Their performances are always very entertaining and certainly lots of fun!!

Arrivederci, aurevoir; etc.

It has been my extreme pleasure and good fortune to serve as NLA Representative to MPLA for the past three years. I've enjoyed rubbing elbows and working with all of you and I've certainly been impressed with your professional knowledge and your friendliness. But, as they say, "All good things must come to an end" so you will be seeing a new face behind the Nebraska sign. Julie Simpson will be joining you at MPLA Board Meetings for the next three years. Julie was a Nebraska Board Choice Award winner in 2003. She lives in Lincoln, NE and is Eiseley Branch Supervisor. Eiseley is one of Lincoln City Libraries' two newest branches. She also supervises the Arnold Heights Library and the Bookmobile and is a very active member of NLA. Most recently Julie served a two year term as NLA Secretary.

See you all in Albuquerque!!!