

Mountain Plains Library Association

*Big Horizons Close Community*

# Newsletter

April 2022—May 2022

[www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us)

Volume 67 Number 2



**MLA / MPLA / PNLA Tri-Conference**

**August 3-6, 2022**

**Downtown Holiday Inn - Missoula, Montana USA**

<https://www.mtlib.org/Annual-Conference>

**Conference registration for Vendors (only) is now available!**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Special Features

Around the Region

Welcome New Members

MPLA Board and Staff

MPLA Quick Links

Arizona    Colorado    Kansas    Montana    Nebraska    Nevada    New Mexico  
North Dakota    Oklahoma    South Dakota    Utah    Wyoming

# Rooks County Partners Awarded NNLM Region 3 Express Health Information Outreach Award

Teen vaping has been identified as a growing health crisis in Kansas. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment reveals one in ten Kansas high school students vape regularly and one in five students have tried vaping. To raise awareness of preventable respiratory diseases and the dangers of teen vaping, Rooks County Health Center, Plainville Memorial Library, Stockton Public Library, local organizations, schools, and healthcare entities joined forces to develop and implement an outreach program entitled "Raising Awareness of Preventable Respiratory Diseases." The program was made possible in part by the Express Health Information Outreach Award from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, Region 3. The project focused on providing presentations, visual aids, and training for different ages and education levels. A key part of the event was bringing in MEGA Lungs, a highly interactive, educational experience about the respiratory system to two schools in the county for students and the public to tour. Visitors can step inside the inflatable human lungs, learn about the various structures and normal lung function, observe examples of lung trauma and disease and view displays explaining the latest respiratory medical treatment.

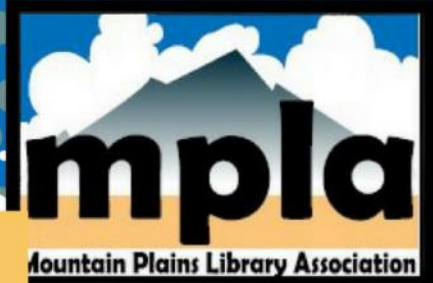
National Library of Medicine resources along with other health information materials were used to create a curriculum for grades 1-12 to educate the students about the risks, symptoms and causes of many diseases of the lungs. The exhibit was available for the public to view at the Plainville High School basketball game. Brenda Frederking from the Plainville Memorial Library had an exhibit with information about the library and brought books for all age groups about the lungs. She was also able to sign people up for a library card. Stephanie Bjornstad, RN, was available to answer questions about the lungs and Kandie Morain, Project Director organized volunteers.

The program was a huge success. 963 people attended the event that took place January 12-13, 2022. Attendee comments were positive with most students being engaged and interested in the display. One of the health centers staff members stated, "If we can save one kid from starting to smoke or vape, all of this was worth it!"

For more information about NNLM Region 3 and available awards go to [Open Funding Opportunities](#). Margie Sheppard, NNLM Region 3 Community Engagement Coordinator







COMING SOON

# MPLA ELIST/LISTSERV!

Information on  
guidelines & steps to join  
on it's way!



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Find us on 



MPLA on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainPlainsLibraryAssociation/>

MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

MPLA on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3041358/>

# Learn Grant Proposal Writing Skills in Free Online Workshop



Whether you're a beginner or whether you've written a few grants but want to improve, Grant Writing for Every Occasion is a free online workshop just for you! This two-day event will be held on May 4-5, 2022. It's brought to you by the Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Wyoming State Library (WSL).

For more information and to pre-register, visit <https://forms.gle/2LorqLQjkCYNeHhN7>

Questions may be directed to Susan Mark at [susan.mark@wyo.gov](mailto:susan.mark@wyo.gov) or (307) 777-5915

This workshop, brought to you by the Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board (WY SHRAB) and the Wyoming State Library, is supported in part by an award from WY SHRAB, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration. The WY SHRAB program is administered by the Wyoming State Archives, which is part of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. The WY SHRAB program is administered by the Wyoming State Archives, which is part of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

## Kansas Library Association

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

*Submit your proposals by May 1st to present at the 2022 Conference in Wichita, October 26th-28th.*



*Visit the KLA website for more info and a link to the proposal form: <https://kslibassoc.org/>*

The Kansas Library Association (KLA) is excited to announce the "CALL FOR PROPOSALS" for the 2022 Conference, which will take place in Wichita, KS October 26th-28th. This year's theme is "Libraries: Rebuilding & Reconnecting."

<https://forms.gle/ucJc9E5wtSEBomSr5>

Learn more on page 11

# Montana State Library to Participate in IMLS-funded School Readiness Train-the-Trainer Program

The Montana State Library is excited to start participating in the Reimagining School Readiness Train-the-Trainer program, as part of a larger grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that was awarded to the Pacific Library Partnership (PLP).

PLP is partnering with the Bay Area Discovery Museum (BADM) and the California State Library (CSL) to train libraries across the country on how to use the Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit to positively impact families and children in their communities. This program is now in its third year, and Montana is excited to participate.

The Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit was developed by the BADM in collaboration with the CSL and is a set of free resources which includes tips and strategies for librarians, as well as activities for children and caregivers, that prepare children for success in school.



“School readiness is an important benchmark for children and families to achieve, and this training will further help librarians prepare families in their communities to successfully transition into formal schooling. For more than fifteen years, MSL has helped Montana’s public libraries support early literacy and school readiness so the implementation of the toolkit can be seamlessly added to a librarian’s repertoire,” Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian said. “I am excited to see Montana libraries continue to advance in this work and help contribute to our students’ future learning success.”

As part of this project, MSL will send two Montana librarians to attend virtual trainings with BADM in January 2022, as well as plan workshops to train Montana librarians in the toolkit resources. Beyond 2022, MSL will plan to hold annual trainings to refresh and energize those who have already been trained, and to introduce new librarians to the toolkit and help them learn how to use it. One of the trainers, Bayley Gibson from the Madison Valley Public Library, is eager to start with the program. “I am excited to be a part of bringing the ‘Reimagining School Readiness’ program to Montana libraries and communities,” Gibson said. “I believe it will be yet another wonderful and invaluable resource available to early childhood educators across the state.”

To find out more about the Reimagining School Readiness Train-the-Trainer program, or MSL’s early literacy initiative, Ready 2 Read, please contact Amelea Kim, Lifelong Learning Librarian at the Montana State Library at [akim@mt.gov](mailto:akim@mt.gov) or 406-444-0224. You can also visit the Reimagining School Readiness webpage at <https://libraries.msl.mt.gov/reimaginingschoolreadiness>

# EDI Open Conversations at WLA

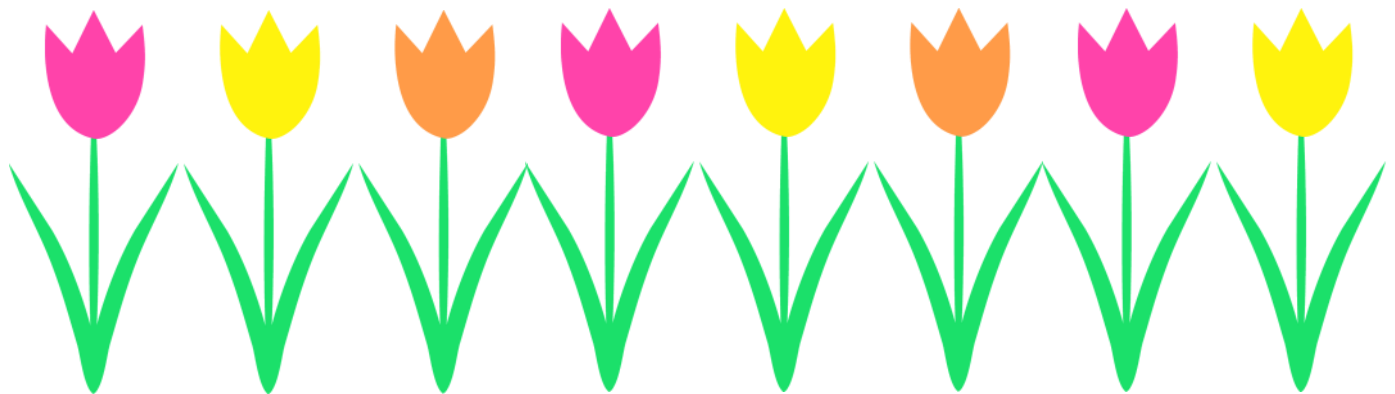
The Wyoming Library Association's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee was formed in summer 2020 to create an [EDI Statement](#) for the Association. After fulfilling the charge, the Committee suggested remaining active to continue EDI efforts across the state. In early 2021, a survey was performed to see what library staff in Wyoming needed regarding EDI. Resources and discussions were at the top of the list, and Open Conversations were created to meet the need.

The first round of Open Conversations was unstructured and meant to be a place for individuals to drop in and share thoughts. Dates and times were set according to personal schedules of the committee. While well-intentioned, half of the conversations drew one or two individuals from across the state while the others had zero in attendance. All of those things led the Committee to evaluate the approach.

After taking a break from the Open Conversations, the Committee reconvened with feedback from attendees and examples from other groups. Dubbed "Open Conversations 2.0" to acknowledge the evolving way we talk and learn about EDI, a new series was launched in 2022. On the third Tuesday at 4:00pm of every month, Committee members would facilitate the new version of the Conversations to discuss a single topic.

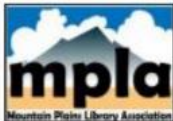
To frame the Conversations, the Committee assumed the conversations needed to start at a beginner's level to reach more library workers, everyone would need to read/listen/watch the same thing to create a shared understanding of the basics, and even then, not everyone interested in attending would have the time to get to that shared understanding. Each month, short articles or videos no longer than 30 minutes total would be sent out with a registration link. Two members of the Committee would co-facilitate each Conversation and start with a 3-5 minute video for those who weren't able to do the "homework" prior to the event. From there, attendees either let the discourse flow or are prompted with questions to start discussion. Facilitators also grabbed resources from the chat to share later for those who were unable to attend.

Open Conversations 2.0 have been a success when compared to the previous attempt and the number of library workers in the state. January's conversation on microaggressions had 15 in attendance while February's conversation on Critical Race Theory had 12. Both went over the hour length, with attendees staying after to continue sharing resources and ask the facilitators for more information. At the time of writing this article, March's conversation on personal pronouns has not been held, but the Committee expects it to follow the trend of beneficial EDI conversations.





## Guiding Principles



# LONG RANGE PLANS 2018



### 1. Pursue outreach opportunities

- Foster relationships
- Increase professional sharing
- Include diverse communities



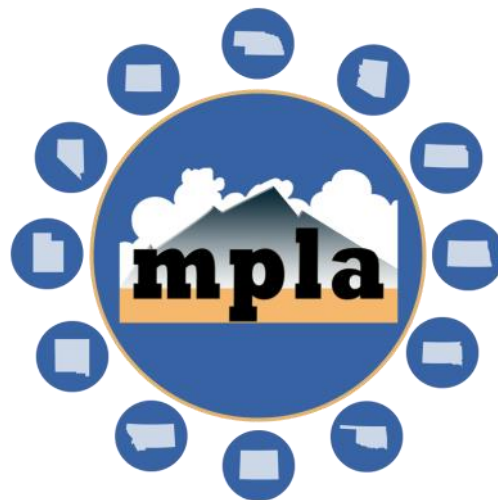
### 2. Encourage caring, respectful relationships

- Mentoring
- Networking
- Collaborations
- Learning



### 3. Realize our potential

- Leadership development
- Professional growth opportunities
- Engagement with library community



Source: Agreement was made by Ginger Cooney; Telephone icon made by Freepress; Network icon made by StockIllustration from www.FairIllustration.com

www.MPLA.us



## MPLA CHEW & CHAT



Led by lively hosts Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie, the informal discussions will occur every 4th Wednesday of the month. Advance registration is necessary with link below:

Mountain Plains Library Association “Chew & Chats”

When: 4th Wednesdays of each month.

1 PM Central time; Noon Mountain; 11 am Pacific.

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuc-6sqT0iGtbqUkVclDcjtIzmJuvf87D1>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meetings.

Feel free to forward this information to others interested in MPLA.

# NOW IS THE TIME



## EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

### Earn your Master of Library Science

A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future.

Learn more at [emporia.edu/slim](http://emporia.edu/slim).





## Grocery Rewards—King Soopers/Kroger

There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA. Instead, you can link your loyalty card to our MPLA Community Awards Program account. To do so: Go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

**Once logged into your King Soopers/Kroger account, search for Mountain Plains Library Association by name or our account: KK820.** Then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card. If you previously purchased grocery cards they may still be used and reloaded but they will no longer provide rebates for MPLA.

Instead, there is a quarterly designated funding amount which is shared by all Community Rewards organizations. Amounts are determined by the percentage of purchases by each organization.

If you are in an area with Kroger stores this is an easy way to support MPLA!

### King Soopers/Krogers **COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM**

Link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

**SUPPORT MPLA!**



#### Cards Are Accepted By

- Kroger
- Fred Meyer
- Ralphs
- Fry's and Fry's marketplace
- King Soopers
- Dillons
- Smith's Food & Drug City Market
- QFC
- Food 4 Less
- Owen's
- Foodsco
- Hilander
- Pay-less Cala-Bell
- Bakers
- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug

# Around the Region



## New AzLA President



The Arizona Library Association has announced that Lisa Lewis, of Show Low Public Library, is the new AzLA President. She will serve through fall 2023, which will enable to Association to return to a three-year election cycle for the presidency. Lisa's priorities include working with the Conference Committee

to relaunch the annual conference as an in-person event and advocating for Arizona libraries of all types. Lisa has previously served as President of the Association for Rural & Small Libraries, and she is a new member of MPLA.

## Tempe Public Library eliminates overdue fines

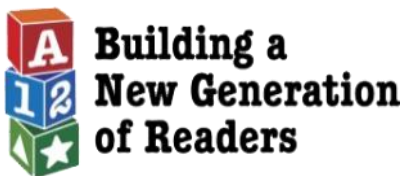
As of February 14, Tempe Public Library has joined the growing list of Arizona libraries eliminating overdue fines for library materials. Library director Jessica Jupitus noted that the library is committed to providing free and equitable access to services for all community members, and that going fine-free "(...) makes that access possible, ensuring that library materials are always available to those who need them most."

Read more about the change at [KTAR.com](http://KTAR.com).



## Arizona State Library building a new generation of readers through statewide early literacy initiative

The Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records has launched a new early literacy initiative called Building a New Generation of Readers (BNGR). The project includes a new Early Literacy Library Team, coordinated by the State Library, which will provide early literacy training to family, friends, and neighbor childcare providers across the state.



The BNGR project also includes collection support for 50 public and tribal libraries in Arizona, through the purchase of pre-loaded learning tablets and read-along picture books. Read more about the project, and see a list of participating Arizona libraries, [here](#).





# CO COLORADO

## Artist Connection Hub

Local artists can connect with each other and share their projects at Ignacio Community Library's weekly Open Art Studio. New members and guests are always welcome in the group, which meets every Friday. For more information contact the Ignacio Community Library (970) 563-9287.



## Sled Dog Demonstration

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Iditarod, Gunnison County Libraries, in Crested Butte, CO, hosted a Sled Dog Demonstration. Abi and her Mushing Mutts will show kids the dogs and equipment behind this local sled dog team. After school snacks and dog visits included.

<https://themushingmutts.com/>



# KS KANSAS

## Winter Read!

At Louisburg Library we do Winter Read! Patrons of all ages can receive a prize for reading (or listening to) a specified number of books. Pre-K - 1st grade read 20 picture books, 2nd - 5th grade read 2 chapter books, 6th - 12th grade read 2 books, and 17+ read 3 books. This is our third year putting this program on and our prizes throughout have included a mug, wool socks, and this year, stocking caps.

## Call for Proposals!

The Kansas Library Association (KLA) is excited to announce the "CALL FOR PROPOSALS" for the 2022 Conference, which will take place in Wichita, KS October 26th-28th. This year's theme is "Libraries: Rebuilding & Reconnecting." Due to the pandemic, libraries made adjustments to programs and services, which often negatively impacted usage. As libraries return to the new "Covid" normal, staff must rebuild and reconnect with patrons, our communities, and of course, each other! Attendees are encouraged to

submit proposals that align with this theme. For example, program proposals could highlight the new programs and services that are bringing patrons back into the building, how programs were evaluated during the rebuilding process, ways to take care of your staff's wellbeing, how to get back into the community and amp up outreach, etc. Please visit this form to submit your program proposal: <https://forms.gle/ucJc9E5wtSEBomSr5>.

Proposals are due May 1st. The KLA Conference Committee looks forward to reviewing some wonderful proposals, but again, more importantly, looks forward to connecting in October with our tight-knit Kansas library community!

**Kansas Library Association**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS!**

Submit your proposals by May 1st to present at the 2022 Conference in Wichita, October 26th-28th.



Visit the KLA website for more info and a link to the proposal form: <https://kslibassoc.org/>

### New CE Coordinator: Colet Bartow

MSL's new CE Coordinator, Colet Bartow started at Montana State Library on March 14th. Ms. Bartow spent 13 years as a teacher-librarian at Manhattan Public Schools before joining the OPI in 2007. Colet Bartow was the School Library Specialist in the Content Standards and Instruction division from 2007 to December 2016, before being hired as the Content Standards and Instruction Director. From 2009 to 2016, Colet was the OPI Designee to the State Library Commission and served as Chair from 2014-2016. As of July 2020, she became the Senior Manager for the OPI Teaching and Learning Department, supervising Standards, Instruction and Professional Learning (SIPL), Career Technical and Adult Education (CTAE), and Assessment. In March 2022, she will return to her library service roots at the Montana State Library.



Colet completed her M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction at Montana State University, and B.A. in English with endorsements in secondary English, School Library Media, and English as a Second Language at the University of Montana. Her first computer was a Radio Shack TRS-80. Her first job in a library was as a third-grade student.



### Library Express Lockers

We are thrilled to announce that our new Library Express Lockers are now available. Place holds online or over the phone and pick them up at your convenience, 24/7!

In order to use the Lockers, all you need to do is request your desired materials be placed on hold in a Locker by choosing the **Billings Downtown 24/7 Locker** option, and then pick them up any time of day using your Library card and PIN number. Items will be available for pickup for 7 days after being placed into the lockers. Materials may be placed on hold by using the catalog, or the [MSC Library app](#).

This technology is the first of its kind in Montana and has been generously funded by the Billings Library Foundation. Look for additional locker locations around Billings in 2022!

<https://billingslibrary.org/503/Library-Express-Lockers>

<https://youtu.be/VLQ5rW-TaqA>

### Love Our Library Rally - ImagineIF - Flathead County Library Alliance

Library lovers in Flathead County rallied together to show their support for the amazing staff of ImagineIF libraries and stand against recent library mismanagement by the library Board of Trustees. In the last seven months, three trustees have systematically attempted to dismantle our well-loved, award-winning ImagineIF Libraries. They have hired a professionally unqualified and inexperienced director and are attempting to rewrite library policies without community or staff input. They have driven away professional leadership and damaged the morale of the talented and overworked staff who remain. They have colluded to create book challenges, wasted taxpayer dollars, and violated open meeting laws. Flathead County residents are declaring that enough is enough. We understand that an excellent library is critical to a vibrant, thriving community and economy and won't stand for its erosion. It's time for trustees to get back on track to building and supporting the gem that is ImagineIF Libraries.

Want to learn more? <https://flatheadbeacon.com/2022/02/02...>

Want to help? <https://www.fclibraryalliance.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQKbEuwb2nY>



# NE NEBRASKA

## America's Star Library

The McCook City Library in McCook, NE has been acknowledged as "America's Star Library." Library Director Jodi Crocker was informed of the award by the Nebraska Library Commission, with McCook one of 15 Nebraska libraries recognized. The awards were based on several factors, including budgets, WiFi use, circulation, library visits and public internet use, Crocker said, and the McCook City Library tied for fourth place with a library in Illinois. There are 272 libraries in Nebraska, seven book mobiles and nine branches.



## Character on Parade

What fun we had at Hastings Public Library with our program, 'Characters on Parade!' We had three special guests at our program, Elephant & Piggie and Pete the Cat! Characters on Parade was a 60 minute program for families to meet and greet with their favorite book characters and make a craft with them! We made Pete the Cat Headbands and an Elephant & Piggie Paper Plate craft. We also learned the Cool Cat Boogie with Pete! What was really

special about this program were the costumes! Costume Specialists ([www.costumespecialists.com](http://www.costumespecialists.com)) based in Ohio rents out professional mascot costumes of favorite characters for just the price of shipping! Each costume was \$140 to ship. I encourage you, if that is out of your programming budget, to look into local sponsorships or grants. We were able to have our local hospital sponsor the event to cover the costs of shipping the three characters. The only cost to the library was craft supplies! If you want to know more about the process of requesting a costume, the 'Characters on Parade' program, or requesting local sponsorship feel free to contact Rachel Mueller at [rmueller@hastingslibrary.us](mailto:rmueller@hastingslibrary.us)



# Big Horizons, Close Community



**Welcome Dean Cardwell**

With her welcoming spirit and never-ending energy, the University Libraries new Dean Catherine Cardwell hit the ground running in August 2021, just in time for the start of the fall semester. She participated in the President's Office Digital Wolf Pack Initiative and NevadaFIT Orientation Welcome Weekend (NOW), is on a mission to continue the Libraries' trajectory of excellence and innovation in the context of an R1 institution, and is currently working to replace high-cost textbooks in order to help lower the cost of education for students.



"Dean Cardwell is a transformational addition to the University," University President Brian Sandoval said. "She is one of the unquestioned leaders in the movement to change and make academic libraries more responsive to 21st Century needs. She has an established reputation for being incredibly collaborative as well as creative in helping re-think the breadth of impact our libraries can have."

Dean Cardwell is positioned to assist President Sandoval in working toward achieving the audacious aspirational goal of having the University become a member of the American Association of Universities (AAU), a distinguished group of private and public universities recognized for research excellence. Libraries at AAU institutions are leaders in the academic community and policy influencers. These Libraries are celebrated for their engagement with the full research lifecycle, contributions to knowledge creation, access to substantive and diverse information sources, and curators of rare and unique collections.

**Patton joins Nevada Historical Society as Librarian and Archivist**

Nevada Historical Society has chosen Sarah Patton as its new librarian and archivist. Patton comes from the Hoover Institution Library & Archives at Stanford University, where she was the research services manager. She began the position on Jan. 3, 2022.

"We are excited to have Sarah join our team," Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society director, said. "Our museum is dedicated to preserving artifacts, photographs, manuscripts and other materials related to Nevada and the West. Sarah will enhance our ability to make these materials available to researchers and the public."

The Nevada Historical Society, at 1650 N. Virginia St. in Reno, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and by appointment Thursdays and Fridays. For more, including details on how to schedule a visit to the research library and galleries, see [nvhistoricalsociety.org](http://nvhistoricalsociety.org).

Patton holds a master's degree in library science with a concentration in archives, records and information management from the University of Maryland, College Park. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, San Diego.

The Nevada Historical Society collects, preserves and educates the public about our shared history through exhibition, artifacts, books, photographs and manuscript materials relating to the state of Nevada, the Great Basin, and the West. The Nevada Historical Society is one of seven state museums that make up the Nevada Division of Museums and History.



## Next Dean at the NMSU Library

Following a national search, New Mexico State University (NMSU) has selected Kevin James Comerford as the next dean of the NMSU Library.



“NMSU has a dedicated team of library employees, and I’m honored to join them as the new dean of the library,” said Comerford. “I’m also very excited to be coming to NMSU right now, when the university is working toward new goals and an expanded role in New Mexico higher education.”

Comerford holds a Master of Information Science degree from the University of North Texas and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Texas Christian University. He also has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art from Texas A&M. The new dean has a wide range of experience involving implementation of extensive resources and programs, projects, teaching, and publications.

“In addition to a strong library administrative resume, Kevin Comerford brings some unique digital expertise, industry work, and Southwestern library connections that make him an exceptional fit for the NMSU Library dean position,” said Camarena, Dean of the Honors College who chaired the search advisory committee. “He has the background and support to hit the ground running when he begins this spring.”

Comerford comes to NMSU from the University of California, Riverside, where he served as associate university librarian for research, technology and the digital library. His division at the university library included the research services unit, Creat’R Lab maker space, library information technology, digitization solutions, digital initiatives, and library communications units.

Comerford said over the next several years, the NMSU Library could significantly increase its role in supporting student success and faculty research. “The library will accomplish this, in part, by developing strong partnerships and collaborative initiatives, both within the university as well as communities beyond,” he said.

# Membership Advantages

Continuing education opportunities including conferences, workshops and special seminars.

First year Personal membership dues are half price!

Joint annual conferences with member states providing a marketplace of ideas where individuals can share their experience and talent with other librarians.

MPLA Awards recognize outstanding contributions to local, state and regional library services.

Opportunity for members to contribute to the profession.

Professional Development Grants for course work, institutes and workshops.

Information exchange and educational programs about technological developments and innovative library programming undertaken by MPLA libraries.

AND MORE!

**MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource.**

## Current & Future Renovation Happenings

First, the Carrington City Library was recently remodeled in order to install a designated Children's Area. The area features front-facing shelving for picture books and bins for board books - all at a level easily accessible to our youngest readers! Also new are hands-on learning centers and seating areas.



Second, The James River Valley Library is aware that as technology gains popularity and the jobs of libraries worldwide change, they're hopeful a study will give them necessary insight to grow with the needs of the area.



<https://jlgarchitects.com/projects/james-river-valley-library/>

A space needs study being conducted by JLG Architects in Fargo is being conducted to show how much space both the Alfred Dickey Public Library and Stutsman County Library need moving forward.

Library Director, Joe Rector, says when it comes to the Alfred Dickey Library, the 100 year old building was built to meet needs at the time. But times have changed the role the public library plays in the community.

During a public input session, Rector says they discussed the importance of distinct spaces for children, teens, and adults. Technology and maker spaces were also considered along with programming and meeting spaces and the balance of books with e-materials.

Rector says the library has already begun embracing the different services many libraries could be specializing in for the near future.

According to the latest numbers, about 80% of the checkouts from the local libraries are physical materials. That number could shift more to technological checkouts in the future.

## Minot Public Library LEGObug

A First Lego League Team called LEGObug, sponsored by the Friends of the Minot Public Library and coached by Pam Carswell and Jess Bingham, Teen Librarian and Teen Assistant (in their spare time, no less), won the Judges Choice Award at State Competition on February 12th in Grand Forks at UND. The team is comprised of 9 young people 9-14 from 5 different schools who meet at the library every Saturday morning from September onwards. This LIBRARY team is pretty special! They must solve a real world problem, present their research, findings and solution, and explain their robot design, demonstrate excellent core values of discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion, teamwork, fun, and compete in the robot games. We are so proud of our team.



## Moore Student honored for continued reading goal

Leaders in local government and library organizations gathered at Wayland Bonds Elementary to celebrate a young man for his years-long commitment to a reading goal.

Brixton Lemons, 12, was first challenged by his third-grade teacher to read every Children's Sequoyah book from that year's list, and the habit has stuck. Now in sixth grade, Brixton continues to read every book on the Children's list—also venturing into the Intermediate list from time to time—and has recently finished his 70th Sequoyah title.

After hearing of Brixton's accomplishment, local officials and Pioneer Library System staff coordinated to honor Brixton for his dedication to reading, leading to a surprise January gathering in Brixton's school library.



Gathered were Representative Chris Kannady and state Senator Darrell Weaver, who presented an official Citation of Congratulations, Oklahoma Library Association President Cherity Pennington, Pioneer Library System Executive Director Lisa Wells, Wayland Bonds Media Specialist Kristen Lassiter, Sequoyah Chairperson Kirsten Walker, and Brixton's biggest supporters—his family.

Asked if there was ever a point when he considered quitting the challenge, Brixton shared his praise of the Sequoyah program: "Not really. I always loved to read, and my biggest problem is I can never find books, but during this challenge, I have the books picked out for me. The Sequoyah list has never failed."

Inaugurated in 1959, the Sequoyah Children's Book Award is the 3rd oldest children's book award in the United States and has since added categories for intermediate grades and high school students. It is a student's choice award; students vote for their favorite books from a list curated by a dedicated reading team, including Chairperson Kirsten Walker, a librarian with Pioneer Library System. Delighted by the recognition Brixton was receiving, Walker said "Hearing about Brixton's story was so inspiring and humbling. I love working with the Sequoyah teams and knowing that we had helped a student be engaged and excited about reading, while also inspiring others to do so was incredible. As a member of the Sequoyah Administration Team, it was so wonderful to see him light up as he talked about his favorite book from the list. It's rare that we get to see those moments and being there for this moment was so great."

For more information, please visit [pioneerlibrarysystem.org](http://pioneerlibrarysystem.org) to contact the nearest library. To learn more about the Sequoyah Book Awards, please visit [oklibs.org/page/01Sequoyah](http://oklibs.org/page/01Sequoyah).

## OLA President-Elect and former MPLA representative Tim Miller selected for the 2022 ALA Policy Corps

The ALA Policy Corps aims to expand our ability to advocate on key policy issues on behalf of the library community. The Corps builds on the Policy Revolution! Initiative and was launched in partnership with 2017-18 ALA President Jim Neal. Participants in the Corps focus on issues for which deep and sustained knowledge are necessary to advance ALA policy goals and library values among policymakers.

To view the full story, visit: <https://www.ala.org/press-releases/2022/02/ala-announces-2022-policy-corps-members?fbclid=IwAR0vYURxrwCgYTyK1SYqSvtdnd4UOZeU4Yw-3cptyV1sBYUsoAQi61QAXU>





## New Faces in SD Library Director Leadership

### *Edwardson named Library Director*

Abby Edwardson is the new Director of Rawlins Municipal Library. She will officially assume the role on Friday, April 1. Edwardson has worked at Rawlins Library for seven years and currently serves as the library's Circulation Services Coordinator.



"Abby will be a wonderful director," said Pierre Mayor Steve Harding. "She knows our operations, is a true professional, and is always a joy to work with." Edwardson started her work with Rawlins in 2015 as a part-time Adult Services Library Assistant. In 2019 she was promoted to Circulation Services Coordinator. Edwardson says that she's looking forward to the new role.

"I'm very excited to continue building on the strong program we have in Pierre," said Edwardson. "Our team is great, and we're well positioned to try out a few new things to further enhance Rawlins Library and the services it offers in the community." As Director, Edwardson will serve on the City's senior staff team directing all library department operations and administration with input from the Library Board. Rawlins Library has 21 full and part-time employees, serves an average of 2,800 patrons a month, and maintains a collection of more than 125,000 books and materials for research, entertainment, and education.

Edwardson holds a degree in Human Services and Sociology from Black Hills State University and will receive her Masters of Library Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in May.

### *Martin named Library Director*



Lisa Martin is the new Director of the Madison Public Library. She officially assumed the role on March 1st. Martin has worked at the public library for five years as the children's librarian. Her plan is simple. She will approach it in the same way she approached her position as children's librarian when she was hired. "When I came in as the children's librarian, I kept everything the same until one day it wasn't. I will make this a job I love. I'm already passionate about libraries," said Martin.

As Director, Martin will direct all library department operations and administration with input from the Library Board. Madison Public Library has 8 full and part-time employees, a service population of over 7,000, maintains a collection of more than 51,000 books and materials for research, entertainment, and education.

## Greetings from Watertown

Have you ever wondered where in the USA other Watertowns may be? In February, The Watertown Public Library in Watertown, SD held an online program with 6 other Watertowns across the country, to talk about local history and what makes each Watertown unique. Watertowns represented include MA, NY, SD, CT, MN, WI, and TN.



## Art Exhibit Installed at Merrill-Cazier Library

“Returning Home: The Art and Poetry of Intermountain Indian School, 1951-1984” was recently installed at Merrill-Cazier Library. The exhibit displays works created by young Native American students during their time at Intermountain Indian School in Brigham City. The exhibit was inspired by the book titled “Returning Home: Diné Creative Works from the Intermountain Indian School.”

“‘Returning Home’ is a cyclical journey that, follows Diné as they have traveled, returned home, and continued their movement through time and generations. This exhibit and the accompanying book primarily serve Diné former boarding school students and their respective families and communities, while educating a wider public of their journeys, experiences and voices,” coauthor and exhibit curator Farina King said.

King, Michael Taylor and James Swensen collaborated on both the book and exhibit in hopes of making these student voices, in their arts and writing, accessible to Diné families, communities and the general public.



## WLA Legislative Reception a Great Success

The 2022 Wyoming Library Association legislative reception was a great success! The event was held on February 17 at the Wyoming State Library. Between 40 and 50 legislators and many WLA members from across the state attended for an evening of conversation and home-cooked food. Enjoy these photos, and see more on the WSL blog. The Wyoming State Library celebrated its 150th birthday at the legislative reception. The cookies were provided by the WYLD Network. Some of the librarians in attendance: (L to R) Kim Storey, Abby Beaver, Anne Kuipers, and Kate Mutch.



*The event drew dozens of legislators.*



*Some of the librarians in attendance: (L to R) Kim Storey, Abby Beaver, Anne Kuipers, and Kate Mutch.*





# Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
<b>Alexa Davis</b>	Librarian	Basehor Community Library	Basehor, KS
<b>Angela Quinn</b>		Ponca City Library	Oklahoma
<b>Brandi Schur</b>		Linscheid Library – East Central University	Oklahoma
<b>Cammy Hutcherson</b>		Western Plains Library System	Oklahoma
<b>Carolyn Prescott</b>		Muskogee Public Library	Muskogee, OK
<b>Catherine Cardwell</b>	Dean	University Libraries, University of Nevada	Reno, NV
<b>Chris Pusateri</b>	Access Librarian	Red Rocks Community College	Lakewood, CO
<b>Christina Reyes</b>	Rural Services & Bookmobile Program	Utah State Library	Salt Lake, UT
<b>Elisa Tomasian</b>	Collections Librarian	Red Rocks Community College	Lakewood, CO
<b>Janet Suther</b>	Director	Wetmore Public Library	Wetmore, KS
<b>Janice Grover-Roosa</b>	Academic Excellence Librarian	University of Wyoming Libraries	Laramie, WY
<b>Jessica Rardin</b>	Learning and Engagement Librarian	University of Wyoming	Laramie, WY
<b>Jillienne Kirkpatrick</b>	Student	University of Oklahoma	Norman, OK
<b>Juliana Nykolaiszyn</b>	Head, Digital Resources & Discovery Services	Edmon Low Library, OSU	Stillwater, OK
<b>Julie Bogardus</b>	Resource Specialist	Mid-Plains Community College	McCook, NE
<b>Katie Wheeler</b>	Assistant Director of the Learning Commons	Mid-Plains Community College	McCook, NE

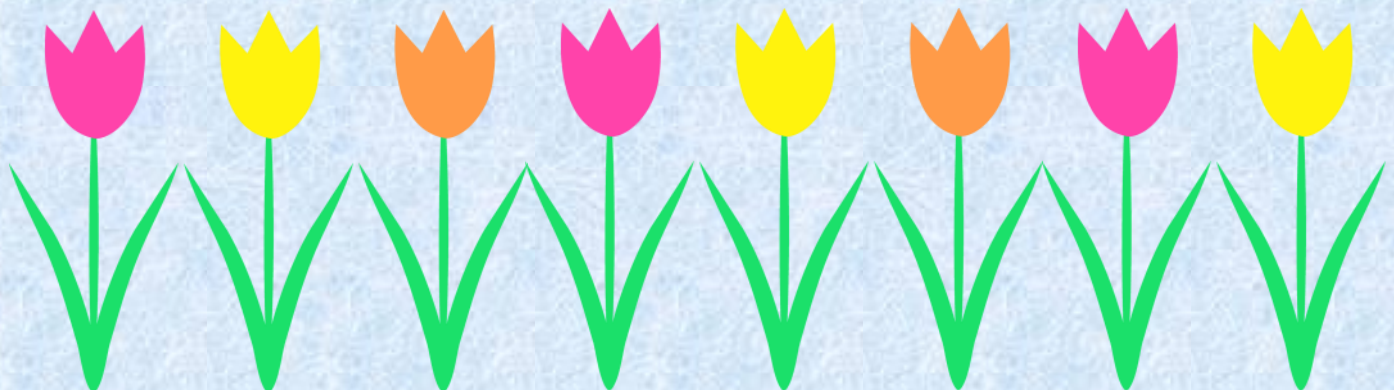




# Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
<b>Kira Frederick</b>	Youth Services Librarian	Douglas County Public Library	Minden, NV
<b>Kristen Becker</b>	Assistant Professor	Texas Woman's University	Denton, TX
<b>Mary Maynard</b>	Public Services	Pioneer Library System	Oklahoma City, OK
<b>Matthew West</b>	Business Librarian	Harmony Library, Poudre River Public Library District	Fort Collins, CO
<b>Michaela Schaff</b>	Youth Services Assistant	Morton Mandan Public Library	Mandan, ND
<b>Miranda Wisor</b>	Technical Services Librarian	Southeast OK Library System	Oklahoma
<b>Molly Dettmann</b>	Teacher Librarian	Norman North High School	Oklahoma
<b>Rowen Hutchins</b>		Tulsa City County Library	Tulsa, OK
<b>Sarah Green</b>	Resource Specialist	Mid-Plains Community College	North Platte, NE
<b>Stephanie Freedle</b>		Eastern Oklahoma Library System	Oklahoma
<b>Susan Shewey</b>		Ponca City Library	Ponca City, OK
<b>Suzanne Williams</b>	Author	Author	Reno, NV
<b>Tara Humphrey</b>		Salt Lake County Library	Salt Lake, UT





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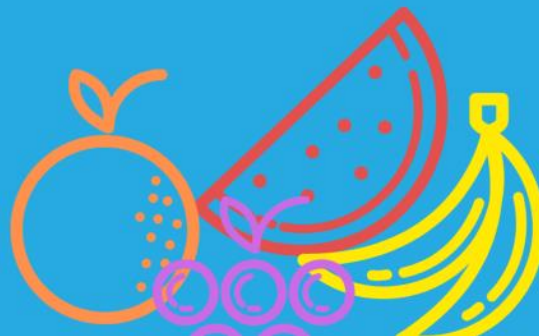
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The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

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- July 1
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