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Colorado State Report to MPLA

Oct.3, 2008

November 6, 7, and 8 are the dates of the 2008 Colorado Association of Libraries annual conference. With the theme of “Communities and Libraries,” it is entirely appropriate that the conference is “going green.” The Colorado library community pools a variety of resources and is looking for other ways to do more resource sharing. We are noticing the impact a library has on the education, economic development, growth, and revitalization of its community. The work we all do has a profound effect on creating the community to which we belong. Attendees to the conference are being encouraged to “be green” by taking public transportation or carpooling, bringing their own water bottles, and recycling. Session presenters are being encouraged to post their sessions on the CAL websites and not provide paper handouts.

Key note speakers include Dwight Jones, Mary Dempsey, Jessamyn West, and Jim Rettig. The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) is offering 6 basic registration scholarships and the University of Colorado Denver is offering graduate credit for attending the CAL Conference.

The CAL Leadership Institute will kick off at the 2008 CAL Conference and will continue as a year-long program that will include both face-to-face meetings as well as virtual sessions.

The vision is to develop outstanding leaders within CAL and the Colorado library community and the mission is defined as creating a culture of leadership in CAL by engaging and connecting its members in leadership development activities including self-assessment, networking, and skills development.

The CAL Leadership Institute will allow participants to...

- explore and understand personal leadership styles by conducting activities that allow for self-assessment;
- develop key relationships among participants, presenters, and the larger library community through inquiry, advocacy, and networking;
- participate in professional development opportunities to enhance leadership skills; and
- create a community of leaders throughout Colorado.

Applications were accepted through September and are now being reviewed. Several CAL board members have volunteered to be mentors for those who will participate.

Mary Katherine Katzer
MPLA Colorado State Representative