

Kansas Library Association  
Mountain Plains Library Association Report - July 12, 2003  
Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

KAN-ED, the project to create a Kansas information highway for schools, libraries, and hospitals, recently held its first round of regional delegate meetings across the state. These brought together representatives of each of the constituent groups from each of the seven regions to discuss the current state of the project and ways it can be promoted to peer organizations. KAN-ED also recently closed the application window for its first round of grants from the subsidy program to help fund broadband connectivity equipment and services. Awards are expected to range from \$2,000 to \$4,500.

Dr. Diane Bailiff has been appointed as Interim Dean of the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University (ESU). She holds a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Higher Education Administration and for the past four years has served as the Vice-President for Student Affairs at ESU. This follows the promotion of former-Dean Robert Grover to the position of Dean of Graduate Studies at ESU. SLIM also lost long-time faculty member and former Dean, Marty Hale, who resigned to become Dean of the School of Library & Information Science at Catholic University of America

SLIM enrolled 71 new MLS students in the summer semester - 22 to attend classes at ESU and 49 to attend the distance education program at Salt Lake City, Utah. This summer marks the third time that SLIM has delivered its MLS program to Salt Lake City. The program operates at the invitation of the State Library Division of Utah and weekend classes meet in the state library building. The success of the program continues to grow as evidenced by the largest enrollment to date. All but eighteen of the new Utah students live in Salt Lake County, but students from Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho also enrolled. The average travel distance is only sixty-five miles, but more than ten percent of the students travel at least one hundred-sixty miles with the longest distance being more than four hundred miles. The new students range in age from twenty-three to fifty-nine years with an average age of thirty-four years. Twenty-one percent of the students are male and eight percent are of ethnic minority status. SLIM also plans to begin offering distance education classes from their doctoral program in the Fall semester.

SLIM recently awarded its first Generalist Certificate in the Library Services Certificate Program. The recipient is Grace Heim, Library Assistant at Kingman Public Library. This certificate is one of six available through the program. Each consists of twelve hours of college course work which can be applied toward the Bachelor of Integrated Studies degree from ESU. The Generalist Certificate actually constitutes a sampling of the five areas of study available in the program, including administration, collection development, information sources and services, technology, and youth services. Most of the courses are offered over a single weekend so that a certificate can be earned in just twelve weekends over one or two years. Students attend class Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning. The format allows full-time working adults to earn a college degree that draws on their job experience.

The Kansas Library Association (KLA) has moved into the new office located in the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library. Executive Director Roseanne Goble will soon have a new office partner when the coordinator for SLIM's Institute for Continuing Education (ICE) also moves into that facility.

The Public Library Section of KLA has announced its fall conference will be held September 11-12. Like last year, this event will be a joint effort with KLTA, the Kansas Library Trustees Association. Included on the program will be sessions on the bookstore model for marketing and promotion, facilities management and interior space design and use. A second track will include programs on library staff salaries and benefits, legislative advocacy, Kansas statutes that pertain to library funding, and KAN-ED.

Joe McKenzie, Director of the Salina Public Library, was named 2003 Outstanding Supporter of Support Staff by Library Mosaics Magazine. He was featured in a recent issue of the magazine and honored at the annual COLT banquet in Toronto in June. He was nominated for his tremendous support of his staff as well as contributions to

library staff throughout the state with the development of the SMART meetings. These are a series of gatherings for medium-sized libraries that allow staff from various service areas (EX. Circulation, Reference, Collection Development, Programming, Children Services) to opportunity to meet and discuss common issues.

"A breath of fresh air" was the phrase Kansas Attorney General Phil Kline used to describe the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding Internet filtering. Bolstered by this action, Kline indicated that he plans to pursue the issue a step further by introducing a bill in the upcoming legislative session that would mandate the employment of filters on all public school and library computers. Coincidentally, his will likely be only one of several similar measures that land in the hopper during this election-year session.