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Kansas Report to MPLA

March 14, 2007

Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

The Kansas Library Association launched a strategic planning process in January. The goal is to develop a plan that will guide that groups efforts for the next few years as well as provide a mechanism for ongoing direction, much like MPLA's Long Range Plan. The Strategic Planning Task Force has met twice and will hold its third gathering on March 23.

Library Legislative Day was held on February 15 and was considered to be very successful. Despite crummy weather and rampant flu, more than 100 library staff, members, Trustees and Friends were in attendance. This year's theme was "The World is Yours @ Your Library." Throughout the day, KLA emphasized that Kansas libraries provide:

- Entrepreneurs with the information they need to grow new businesses and create more jobs in their communities
- Lifelong learning for all residents from birth to retirement
- Essential resources for job hunting, career change and workforce development

Attendees also advocated for several enhancements to the FY08 State Library Budget. A Special Award was presented to Governor Kathleen Sebelius, thanking her for her support of Kansas libraries and of the first Kansas Book Festival, and a State Library Shining Star Award was given to Vicki Buening, Director of Constituent Services, Office of the Governor, for her leadership in implementing the Festival.

The 2007 Kansas Tri-Conference is scheduled for April 10-13 in Topeka. As always it will feature a variety of programs created by the three sponsoring organizations including KLA, the Kansas Association of School Librarians and the Kansas Association of Educational Communication and Technology. The State Library of Kansas is also sponsoring a number of programs and events including a luncheon entitled "Have Lunch with Christie Brandau-It's in the Bag" that will include updates on SLOK activities and the Dinner with Kansas Authors hosted by the Kansas Center for the Book. Incoming MPLA President Wayne Hanway will be our guest and will also present at least one program.

The theme for the 2007 Summer Institute for school library personnel is "Digital Literacy: The School Library Program and Learning in an Information Rich World." The institute will be held on June 13-14 at the Jones Institute for Education Excellence, Emporia State University. The Institute is sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Librarians, the School of Library and Information Management at ESU, the Kansas Department of Education, the State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Regional Library Systems.