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Oklahoma State Report: October 2007

Oklahoma won the national competition sponsored by the First Book program based in Washington D.C. The First Book program provides books for low income children who participate in community based mentoring programs, tutoring, or family literacy programs. The original gift of 50,000 books would not fill the request for books in Oklahoma. The program plans to send another 300,000 when a warehouse is secured. Books will be distributed around the holidays. First Book indicated that middle income families average 13 books per child but in lower income families there is one book for every 300 children. Eighty Oklahoma community centers will receive the books to distribute to children in their communities.

Norman Public Schools was this year's winner of the American Association of School Librarians School Library Media Program of the Year sponsored by Follett Library Resources. The Norman Public School's library program is aligned with the district plan of instruction and provides many opportunities for innovative collaboration. School libraries have strong support from administration and are part of the district's long range strategic plan.

A "Support Your Support Staff" workshop was held at the Midwest City Public Library September 27. How to talk with and influence legislators, tips on providing security in libraries, and educational opportunities were a few of the topics discussed. As a guest speaker on educational opportunities, I shared information on the Mountain Plains Library Association and encouraged participants to join.

On October 5, I presented a professional development day for school librarians in Muskogee. I encouraged school librarians to be a part of the professional community of librarians by joining the Oklahoma Library Association, Mountain Plains Library Association and the American Library Association.

Oklahoma Library Association has its first regional meeting in Muskogee October 16th. That will give me another avenue to promote MPLA.

Respectfully submitted,
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