

ST-9

Oklahoma Report: July 2007

In June, the Oklahoma Library Association had its Leadership Retreat in Tahlequah, Ok. at Northeastern State University. Some time was spent on legislative items since there will be a large turnover of legislators in Oklahoma because of term limits.

Sharon Saulmon at Rose State College along with the Oklahoma Library Association received a grant for an Information Matrix Camp to be held July 15-21. This library camp is for middle school students ages 11-14. It is an effort to interest students in library careers. There will be visits to different types of libraries in the area and discussions from librarians that work in unique libraries.

I wish to share some information regarding school libraries that is occurring at the national level: NCLIS Support for State Certified School Librarians, Washington, DC July 02, 2007

An announcement was made supporting school libraries regarding both highly qualified staff and adequate resources. From Beth Fitzsimmons, Chairman of the U. S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) "From our perspective a critical part of the comprehensive and renewed strategy to ensure that students learn to read and are effective users of information and ideas, is the requirement that every school have a school library and that school libraries be staffed by highly qualified, state certified school library media specialists."

RESOLVED, that the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), respectfully advises the Congress that:

- schools be provided with adequate resources to provide up-to-date print and non-print materials in all school library/media centers
- school library media specialists be added to the "highly qualified" classification, and
- every school library be staffed by a highly qualified, state certified school library media specialist.

Also at the national level, bi-partisan legislation was introduced in the House and Senate on June 27, 2007. It was titled The SKILLS Act (Strengthening Kid's Interest in Learning & Libraries), sponsored by Senators Jack Reed and Thad Cochran and Representatives Raul Grijalva and Vernon Ehlers. The SKILLS Act reauthorizes and strengthens the Improving Literacy through School Library Programs of the No Child Left Behind Act.