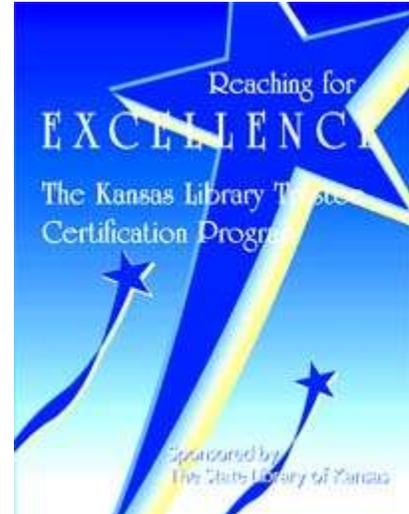


Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program is Very Successful Nine Months after Launch

by Shannon Roy, Continuing Education Coordinator

The Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program was launched in July 2007, shortly after the Certification Program for Kansas Public Library Administrators. Since then, over 280 trustees have qualified in one or more of the five core skill areas where Kansas trustees must have at least one hour of training. The Kansas trustees enrolled in the program have achieved core skill credits in a variety of ways. They have used training sessions at library board meetings, training sessions taught by system personnel or trustee leaders, programs sponsored by the regional library systems and other programs sponsored statewide, such as the "Turning the Page" Advocacy Workshop sponsored by the Gates Foundation and the Public Library Association.



The commitment of Kansas trustees to excellent Kansas public libraries has never been better demonstrated than in their lively support of this new project, although Kansas already had a long tradition of board development through its strong Kansas Library Trustee Association.

Because the project calls for credits in five essential core skill areas, it is not time sensitive and the goal has been the statewide development of Kansas library boards. But in March, the State Library received word that seven members of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library Board had achieved credits in all five core skill areas and had qualified for trustee certification. The Topeka trustees had achieved this with the help of Ellen Miller, who had given them some fairly extensive trustee training earlier in the year.

The seven trustees who have qualified for certification are:

Kerry Storey – Board Chair
Michele Henry – Vice Chair
Suzanne Robb – Secretary
Terry Kimes – Treasurer
Dan Guenther
Melissa Masoner
Elizabeth Ross

The first certified trustees will be recognized at the Trustee/FOKL Luncheon at KLA. The actual certificates will be presented by State Librarian Christie Brandau at the May meeting of the Topeka and

Shawnee County Public Library Board.

While the State Library staff members are proud of the certified trustees in their home city, where many of them are active library users, they know that it will not be long before more trustees from all over the state have also met the requirements for trustee certification. A number of trustees are close to having the required credits. Other trustees are planning to attend both workshops in the first Statewide Training for Trustee Certification that will take place in May and will be fully qualified then.

The first workshop will take place on May 3, with the presentation site at Topeka and Shawnee County Library and the distributed sites at the Dodge City Public Library, the Hays Public Library and the Newton Public Library. The second workshop will take place on May 17 with the same distributed sites, but with the presenters at the Coffey County Library in Burlington. Trustees are welcome to attend either workshop. Those who are able to attend both will be fully qualified for Kansas Library Trustee Certification. Those who have other commitments should be aware that both workshops will be repeated in the fall, the first on October 4 and the second on October 11.

The flyer and registration for the May trustee workshops may be found at:

<http://www.kslib.info/development/trustee-flyer.kanlib.may.pdf>

By popular demand, the deadline for registering for the statewide trustee training has been extended from Friday, April 11 to Friday, April 18. Registration forms will be widely available at Trustee/Friends Day at the Kansas Library Association Conference in Wichita. Trustees and librarians may e-mail their registrations if they are careful to include the requested information and to indicate when the library's fees will be sent to the State Library.

A full description of the Trustee Certification Program is available in the online publication called *Reaching for Excellence: The Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program*. It may be found at:

<http://www.skyways.org/KSL/development/trusteecertification.pdf>

If anyone has questions or concerns about the Trustee Certification Program, they may send e-mail to shanroy@kslib.info or call Shannon Roy at 785/296-2148.