

## **Update on Statewide Continuing Education**

by Shannon Roy, Editor

In April of 2005, the State Librarian called a Continuing Education Summit and it was held at the Manhattan Public Library on April 26. As a result of the discussion at this meeting, five continuing education task forces worked for four months before submitting their final reports to the State Library of Kansas. From these reports, the State Library staff synthesized eleven recommendations, supported by action steps and rationales drawn from the task force reports.

With the start of 2006, planning continues for statewide continuing education. Several continuing education projects will be initiated in 2006:

- A statewide Core Competencies Committee has already been named by the State Librarian. This committee will recommend the best core skills, often called core competencies, needed by Kansas librarians. Training to meet these competencies will form the largest part of the statewide curriculum for Kansas public librarians. The committee will work through the winter and early spring and plan to have a draft document for review by May.

The members of the Core Competencies are:

Emily Baker  
Director  
Olathe Public Library

Carol Barta  
System Consultant  
North Central System

Leslie Bell  
System Director  
Northwest System

Mickey Coalwell  
Library Development Coordinator  
Northeast System

Pete Daniels  
Director  
Independence Public Library

Sharon DuBois  
Director  
Jay Johnson Library in Quinter

GeeGee Helm

Director  
Kingman Public Library

Brenda Hough  
Technology Coordinator  
Northeast System

Melissa Johnson  
Director  
Kirwin City Library

Nancy Malone  
Continuing Education Coordinator  
South Central System

Charlene McGuire  
Technology Consultant  
Southwest System

- A statewide committee will use the designated core competencies to design new statewide administrative training programs for public library administrators. The KPLACE classes of 2006 and 2007 will finish their KPLACE Certification, but new classes will not be offered until new plans are made for administrative training.
- A statewide committee will build on the work done by the Public Library Certification Task Force to develop a program of certification for Kansas public librarians.
- Members of the Kansas Library Trustee Association will partner with the State Library of Kansas to design a certification program for library boards that includes core skills for trustee training.
- The State Library will be partnering with school library leadership and the regional systems to design enhanced continuing education for school librarians. The State Librarian will be meeting with KASL leadership on March 4.
- The State Library staff will work with a professional website designer to create a continuing education web site and calendar. This website will market a wide variety of continuing education events for Kansas library staff and trustees.

Slightly later projects will include:

- A Kansas Library Leadership Program for all types of librarians and trustees.
- An easy-to-utilize online database of continuing education credits that will allow librarians to view and update their own records.

Kansas librarians will continue to have access to face-to-face CE events, but there will also be a dramatic increase in remote access to workshops and training events. Librarians will be able to participate in training events from regional locations or from their desktops. They will also be able to pursue independent study through online courses.

Some Kansas librarians already have experience with distance education through teleconferences, desktop courses and participation in the Iced Coffee Programs that have been offered through OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries). The Delivery Modes Task Force conducted a survey that indicated that the response to most of these events has been very positive.

The final goal of statewide continuing education is to have library education that is readily accessible and will help Kansas library staff update their skills, plan innovative services and adapt to changing customer needs.