

## **State Library of Kansas Will Offer Certification Program for Kansas Public Library Administrators**

by Shannon Roy, Editor

On July 1, 2007, the State Library of Kansas will be launching an exciting new statewide certification program for Kansas public library administrators. A new publication called *Reaching for Excellence: The Certification Program for Kansas Public Library Administrators* will be printed and made widely available to librarians and trustees in the Spring of 2007. It has been placed on the State Library of Kansas website.

The new certification program will offer an initial certificate to every Kansas public library administrator who applies. The certification will be at one of four levels. Each level of certification will document certain credentials in education and/or continuing education. By choosing to become a certified public library administrator, a Kansas library administrator confirms their present credentials and indicates an ongoing commitment to their professional development.

The certificate confirming a Kansas public library administrator at the appropriate level will be valid for three years from the date it is issued. The certificate may be renewed or a new certification may be granted if the training requirements have been met.

The training requirement for all levels is 45 contact hours of library training within the three year certification period. All contact hours must be in one of the seven categories in the Core Competencies for Kansas Public Library Directors.

The core competencies were created in 2006 by a task force of Kansas librarians appointed by State Librarian Christie Brandau. They are an essential part of the Certification Program. The core competencies will serve as a benchmark for public library administrative training and a blueprint for continuing education providers. The State Library, the regional library systems and the library associations will offer a wide variety of training programs that will help public library directors create excellent public libraries for Kansas citizens.

Certification programs are a growing trend in American librarianship at both the state and national levels, but certification programs may have different purposes and different target audiences. The first Kansas Certification Program is specifically for public librarians and it is designed to be an ongoing program for all public library administrators, regardless of their education level or the size of their library.

Over the past twenty years, Kansas librarians have shown a strong commitment to their professional development. The certification project will foster a truly statewide program of

professional training for public librarians. It will also gain wider recognition of library administration as a demanding field that requires sophisticated skills, continuous training and a strong commitment to the quality of life in Kansas communities.

*Reaching for Excellence: The Kansas Certification Program for Public Library Administrators* can be viewed at <http://www.skyways.org/KSL/development/certificationprogram.pdf>. If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please call Shannon Roy, Continuing Education Coordinator, at 785/296-2148 or send e-mail to [shanroy@kslib.info](mailto:shanroy@kslib.info).