

Thoughts from the State Librarian

by Christie Brandau, State Librarian

Librarians can accomplish just about anything! And establishing a program for librarian certification in Kansas is a major accomplishment! Through the new program called "*Reaching for Excellence: Certification for Kansas Public Library Administrators*" librarians will have the opportunity, if they wish, to become certified Kansas Public Library Administrators.



This effort began as a vision to enhance library service, and became a reality through the hard work of a group of librarians dedicated to creating a lifelong, student-centered approach to education. The main components of the program include:

- Application to become a Certified Kansas Public Library Administrator
- Establishment of targeted competencies one can reach in order to renew certification
- Development of offerings for continued education from the State Library, the Kansas Regional Library Systems, KLA, and others to enable certification renewal in a program that offers maximum flexibility.

This program will be the next chapter in librarian education that began with KPLACE. KPLACE has been a valuable program, and, when established, was an innovative response to the needs of the library community. But in 2007 fewer public library directors are able to dedicate a week every year for training, and all librarians, no matter where they are in their career, can benefit from continuous education. Training for Kansas Public Library Administrator certification will be student-centric with weekend classes, online courses and face-to-face workshops. Librarian certification, which will provide opportunities for training that fit the needs of the student, more accurately fits the times we live in.

Thank you again to those who helped craft the core competencies, and to those who worked to make the certification program flexible and easily understood. And beginning on July 1, 2007, I invite you to be among the first librarians in the state to become a certified Kansas Public Library Administrator!

Christie Brandau