

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR KANSAS LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS

INTRODUCTION

In April of 2005, the State Library of Kansas called a meeting of representative librarians and trustees to begin planning for a coordinated program of statewide continuing education. Five areas of concern were identified at the Continuing Education Summit and five continuing education task forces were created to study the issues and make recommendations to the State Library of Kansas. Three critically important recommendations that were included in the final report are:

1. Continuing education for Kansas librarians should be easily accessible and available where they want it, when they want it and in the format that best meets their needs.
2. A certification program for Kansas library administrators should be developed to document levels of education and training.
3. Core competencies should be developed for Kansas librarians in order to provide a benchmark of service and a blueprint for needed continuing education.

In the spring of 2006, the State Library of Kansas staff started two concurrent projects to begin to implement their goal of well trained and highly skilled public library administrators.

1. A Statewide Core Competencies Committee was appointed by the State Librarian. The Committee planned and drafted the *Core Competencies for Kansas Public Library Directors* and submitted the document to the Kansas library community for review. The Kansas core competencies for public library administrators were built on the *Core Competencies for Library Practitioners* that was developed by the Western Council of State Libraries. But the Kansas core competencies were designed for career-long use by all Kansas public library directors, regardless of their formal library education.

The core competencies will be used by Kansas librarians to plan the professional development they need for their certification and to build the skills they need for excellent public library administration.

The core competencies will also be used by continuing education providers to design a wide variety of workshops, programs and online events that will support the certification program.

2. The State Library of Kansas staff created the provisions for a statewide certification program for all Kansas public library directors. This program incorporated training requirements drawn from the core competencies for Kansas public library directors. The draft *Certification Program for Kansas Public Library Administrators* was submitted to the personnel of the seven regional library systems for their review. It was endorsed by the State Library Advisory Commission on February 9, 2007.

Participation in the Kansas certification program for library administrators is completely voluntary. Applicants will receive an initial Kansas Library Administrator Certificate from the State Library of Kansas. At the end of their three year certification period, renewal of the certificate or the awarding of a higher level certificate may be requested if the training requirements of the program have been met.

The Kansas certification levels are not targeted by the size of the service community. Any library director may qualify for any level of certification.

The special thanks of the State Library of Kansas staff are due to the members of the statewide committee that developed the *Core Competencies for Kansas Public Library Directors*. The members of the Core Competencies Committee were:

Emily Baker
Director
Olathe Public Library

Gee Gee Helm
Director
Kingman Public Library

Carol Barta
System Consultant
North Central System

Brenda Hough
Technology Coordinator
Northeast System

Leslie Bell
System Director
Northwest System

Melissa Johnson
Director
Kirwin City Library

Mickey Coalwell
Library Development Coordinator
Northeast System

Nancy Malone
Continuing Education Coordinator
South Central System

Pete Daniels
Director
Independence Public Library

Charlene McGuire
Technology Consultant
Southwest System

Sharon DuBois
Director
Jay Johnson Library in Quinter