



## Western Library System Helping libraries serve our communities.

January/February 2017

### Early Literacy Project

Many of you may not be aware of an early literacy project that exists in the WLS library system.

### CRADLE CATCHERS

Back in 2007, the local Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was looking for a project that would impact literacy. The group took its idea to the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library and Cradle Catchers was born.

Deb Carlson had recently taken a Basic Skills class and mapped out a plan to work with local hospitals to promote literacy by encouraging the parents of newborns to read to their infants.

Deb Carlson and Nancy Escamilla (children & teen librarians) had a brainstorming session with Cara Perkins and Rojean Sweeney of DKG

which laid the foundation for a program that would grow to reach hundreds of infants and parents.

Since that time DKG and the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library have teamed up with the Western Library System to include 40 western libraries and the Birth and Infant Care Center (RWMC). Since initiating the program, over 7,279 books and packets have been given to newborn infants at the Regional West Medical Center!



Each mom receives a book bag that includes a board book with a 'Why Read to Me' label and a Library Coupon to take to a local library and receive a "Read to Me" Sippy Cup and invitation to apply for a Library Card. The packet also includes Brochures, an Alphabet/Numbers Bilingual Bookmark, and a Vision See to Learn Card. The book bags are distributed by DKG members to the RWMC Hospital Birth Center. Nurses give a book bag to each new mother, encouraging her to read to the baby.

The goal of Cradle catchers is to help parents become aware of the correlation between reading to young children and increasing their vocabulary, and school success. We also strive to set the stage for making these parents and their children lifelong users of their library. By starting young, the desire is to build a foundation for future learning.

*"There is no app, better than your lap, read to your children every day."*

• *Author Unknown*

### In This Issue

- Cradle Catchers
- Meet the New Director
- Public Library Survey
- Commission News
- Calendar
- Strategic Planning Workshop
- Bill of Rights Displays
- Big Talk From Small Libraries
- Summer Reading Workshops
- News Around the WLS

\*\*\*\*\*

**WLS Staff**

Pat Gross  
Interim Director  
[wlsinterimdirector@gmail.com](mailto:wlsinterimdirector@gmail.com)

Jeri Clapper  
Administrative Assistant  
[wlsasst@gmail.com](mailto:wlsasst@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

# New Director at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library



## Meet Noelle Thompson

The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library welcomes a familiar face into a new role. Noelle Thompson joined the Library staff last January as a Library Assistant, and in November, she assumed the role of Library Director, vacant following the resignation of Abby Yellman. Thompson moved to Scottsbluff from Illinois in 2015 with her daughter, Nimue, and husband, Robert, when he accepted the Theatre Instructor position at Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC). Prior to joining the library, Noelle taught English as a Second Language both domestically and abroad, and her love of providing education to all people continues in her new position. When not at the library, Thompson enjoys attending WNCC theatre productions, reading to her daughter, and keeping up with the latest adult fiction. With a degree in English from Monmouth College, she is now working on her Master of Library and Information Science from Rutgers's University. Stop by Lied Scottsbluff Public Library to say hello!



## The Public Library Survey available on Bibliostat

Posted by Sam Shaw

The annual IMLS public library survey (submitted via Bibliostat) is now available. The survey deadline is **February 17, 2017**. Completion of the survey is **required** for your library to receive state aid if you are accredited. If you aren't accredited, you still have an incentive to complete the survey (\$200), called [Dollar\\$ for Data](#).

Please feel free to contact Sam if you have any questions throughout the process. You can always start the survey, save your submissions, and then resume at a later date. It doesn't have to all be done at once. **Tip:** It's always a good idea to click on the red "save" button in Bibliostat before clicking "next" to the next screen. Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have questions, please contact Sam Shaw at the Nebraska Library Commission. 800-307-2665



# Nebraska Library Commission

## Library Improvement Grants

In 2017 the Nebraska Library Commission will award federal funds to libraries through a competitive grant process. These funds are provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with funds administered through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The purpose of the Library Improvement Grants is to facilitate growth and development of library

programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries, by supplementing local funding with federal funds designated for these purposes.

Eligible entities:

- Accredited Nebraska public libraries
- Identified institutional libraries

Other organizations can partner with an eligible entity for purposes of submitting a grant application for a collaborative project.

Online applications will be accepted up through 11:59 PM (CT) on January 24, 2017.

Recipients will be announced February 14, 2017.

Complete information can be found at the following link: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Grants/lsta/>

\*\*\*\*\*

### He has earned enough CE hours to Retire!!

Do you have your **Personal Strategic Plan** completed?

If not complete, you have to stay until we all approve it!

### Congratulations, Richard!

Thanks for all you have done to help us through the years.

WLS will miss you!

**RETIREMENT PARTY**

**RICHARD MILLER**  
*is retiring!*

come celebrate with us:

<i>when</i>	<i>where</i>
WEDNESDAY	NEBRASKA LIBRARY
<b>08</b> FEB	COMMISSION
2017	1200 N ST SUITE 120
2:00-4:00 PM	LINCOLN, NE

**RSVP** BY JANUARY 30TH  
LINDA BABCOCK AT 402.471.4037  
linda.babcock@nebraska.gov

*Goodbye to the tie...*  
**RICHARD MILLER**  
*is retiring!*

# Upcoming *NCompass Live* Events

- Jan. 25 - The Future of Virtual Reality for Youth.
- Feb. 1 - EGAD! Bed Bugs in the Library?
- Feb. 8 - New Statistical Standard for Public Services in Archives and Special Collections.
- Feb. 22 - Metadata Makeover: Transforming Omaha Public Library's Digital Collections.

***NCompass Live* is broadcast live, every Wednesday, from 9am - 10am Mountain Time.**

For more information, to register for *NCompass Live*, or to listen to recordings of past events, go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/>

## Mark Your Calendar

Library Improvement Grant Applications Due Jan. 24, 2017

System Quarterly Meeting  
Feb. 7 Lincoln

Richard Miller Retirement Event  
NLC Lincoln 2-4 pm  
Feb 8

Public Library Survey deadline  
Feb. 17

WLS Office Closed - Presidents' Day  
Feb 20

**Strategic Planning Workshop**,  
Scottsbluff WLS conference room. 1 to 4:00 PM  
3 hours of CE  
Feb. 22

**Big Talk From Small Libraries Online Conference** 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time  
8 hours of CE  
Feb. 24

WLS Board Meeting-Railway Office Plaza, Conf. Room – 10:00 a.m. March 14

**SRP "Build A Better World" workshops**, Be watching for registration form.  
5 hours of CE  
March 20 - Chadron Public Library  
March 21 - Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

## Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2017 Schedule

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
1/23 - 2/3	Library Technology	Holly Woldt	12/19/16 - 1/12/17
2/6 - 2/17	Customer Service*	Christa Burns	1/3 - 1/26
2/27 - 3/10	Library Governance	Denise Harders	1/30 - 2/16
3/20 - 4/14	Organization of Materials*	Allison Badger	2/17 - 3/9
4/10 - 4/21	Readers' Advisory	Sharon Osenga	3/13 - 3/30
4/24 - 5/5	Intellectual Freedom and the Core Values of Librarianship*	Sally Snyder	3/27 - 4/13

(\* Requisite class)

Register on the Nebraska Library Commission [Training and Events Calendar](#).  
[Description of Basic Skills courses](#)

[Basic Skills Planner](#)--for program participants to keep track of their progress  
For further information, contact [Holli Duggan](#), NLC Continuing Education Coordinator.

Visit the Nebraska Library Commission Website for News and Announcements.



# Strategic Planning Workshop

*Thinking about becoming an Accredited Public Library to be eligible for grants?*

*Do you want to ease the uncertainty of Strategic Planning?*

*Confused about Strategic Planning and the Library Accreditation Process?*

The Nebraska Public Library Accreditation Guidelines are based on the principle that a good library is a library that is serving the unique needs of its own community. Therefore, the Accreditation Guidelines require that each library applying for accreditation submit a strategic plan that addresses how the library will serve those needs.

This free workshop worth 3 CE hours will provide training for libraries applying for or renewing accreditation. Its never too early to work on the strategic plan. Visit the Nebraska Library Commission website for more information about strategic planning guidelines for accreditation at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/LibAccred/planning.aspx>

**Here is your last chance to sign up for a workshop with Richard Miller, NLC's Library Development Director, before he retires in March.**

Richard will guide you through Strategic Planning for your library. Public Library Directors, Staff, and Library Board Members are encouraged to attend.

**February 22, 2017 1:00 - 4:00pm  
Western Library System  
Conference Meeting Room  
115 Railway Street  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361**

Please Call Jeri at the Western Library System to sign up for this workshop or if you have any questions.

**308-632-1350  
888-879-5303**

This workshop is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.

Article submitted by  
Maryruth Reed, Board President

## ***The Bill of Rights and You...***

On January 3, 2017, the Mitchell Public Library began hosting a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, ***The Bill of Rights and You***, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document. *The Bill of Rights and You* spotlights one of the most remarkable periods in American history, explores the origins of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution (collectively known as the Bill of Rights), illustrates how each amendment protects U.S. citizens, and looks at how Americans exercise the rights outlined in the amendments. *The Bill of Rights and You* invites visitors to connect directly with the people, places, and events that mark this historic document's evolution. This exhibit runs through March 2017.

***The Bill of Rights and You*** co-curator Jennifer Johnson states:

"The Bill of Rights represents the Founder's vision that it would be the people, through votes, that could change the Constitution with enough consensus. And when the people desired a Bill of Rights, our first ten amendments were added to our governing charter."

*The Bill of Rights and You* is organized by the National Archives and Records Administration, and traveled by the National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service (NATES). This exhibition was developed in collaboration with the National Archives' National Outreach Initiative to commemorate the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bill of Rights. The exhibition is presented in part by AT&T, Seedlings Foundation, and the National Archives Foundation.

This exhibit is brought to you in collaboration with the Humanities Nebraska and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Librarian Maryruth Reed is pleased to be able to provide this display to educate the library's patrons about the rich heritage of the U.S. Constitution.



Photo by Pat Gross

Other known exhibit sites for *The Bill of Rights and You*:

- Morrill Public Schools, Kathy Terrell
- Summit Christian College, LaVern Allbaugh
- Alliance Public Library, Stephanie O'Connor
- Western Library System, exhibit located in the Railway Plaza lobby. Any library in the system is welcome to borrow this exhibit. The only restriction is that it must be picked up in the office and delivered back to the office. Fully assembled the exhibit is over 5 feet high but does break down for transporting.

# Big Talk From Small Libraries

All WLS libraries will benefit from this free online conference! 8 hours



## Big Talk From Small Libraries 2017: Small Libraries Doing Big Things February 24, 2017

We've been listening! A comment we've heard pretty often is that so many presentations at conferences seem to be by and for librarians from larger libraries. Well, Big Talk From Small Libraries will change that!

This free one-day online conference is aimed at librarians from small libraries; the smaller the better! Each of our speakers is from a small library or directly works with small libraries.

Topics range from technology (new and old tech) to programming to new roles for the library. Come for the programs on what you're dealing with now or maybe learn something new to try.

Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small your library. But, if your library serves a few thousand people, or a few hundred, this is the day for you.

Big Talk From Small Libraries is broadcast online using the GoToWebinar online meeting service. GoToWebinar works on Windows, Mac, Google Chrome OS, Linux, iOS and Android devices. GoToWebinar login instructions are e-mailed to registered attendees the day before the conference. Please see the [NLC Online Sessions webpage](#) for detailed information about GoToWebinar, including system requirements and firewall configuration.

We do plan on recording all of the sessions and making them available on this site as soon as possible after the event. You do not need to register for the conference to access the recordings.

This conference is organized and hosted by [Christa Porter](#) and [Craig Lefteroff](#) of the [Nebraska Library Commission](#) and is co-sponsored by the [Association for Rural & Small Libraries](#).

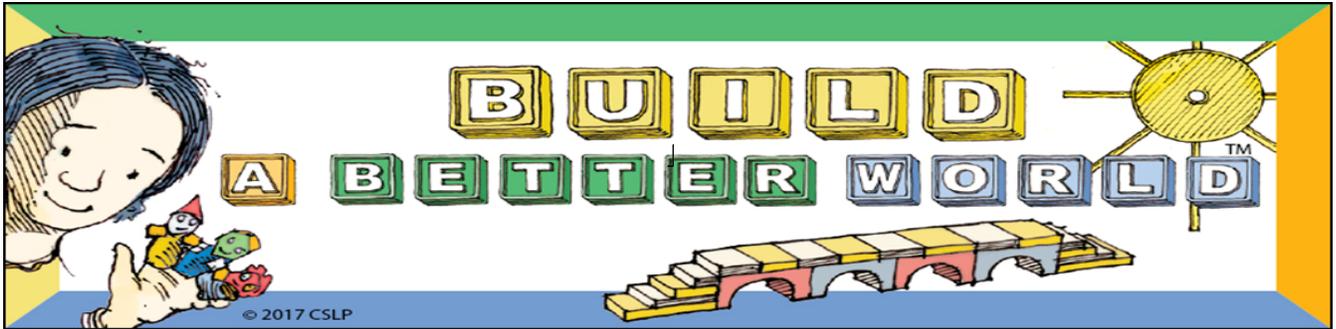
Big Talk From Small Libraries was inspired by the [Iowa Small Libraries Online Conference](#), and our event wouldn't exist without their advice and encouragement.

**Big Talk From Small Libraries**  
**February 24, 2017**  
**7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Mountain Time**



"I have worked in big academic research libraries for 42 years. But I am in total awe of the extraordinary and innovative thinking and services and programs that define small and rural libraries across the U.S. Colleagues working in these settings are the true heroes of librarianship!" Jim Neal Feb. 12, 2016

# SUMMER READING WORKSHOPS



If you missed the McCook workshop that was a collaboration with CPLS and WLS you have another chance to attend two Summer Reading Workshops. Save the Date that works for you! Registration details and an agenda will be released soon as plans become final! Watch for details and registration instructions on our website, listserve, and email from [wlsinterimdir@torgmail.com](mailto:wlsinterimdir@torgmail.com)



**Date: March 20, 2017**  
**Chadron Public Library**  
**507 Bordeaux Street**  
**Chadron. NE 69001**

---

**Date: March 21, 2017**  
**Lied Scottsbluff Public Library**  
**1809 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**  
**Scottsbluff, NE 69361**



**Activities and Crafts with Sandra Wallick, Lincoln City Libraries**



**5 hrs. of CE**



**Book reviews by Sally Snyder, NLC**



Western Library System, District E, librarians enjoyed their full day workshop focused on SRP activities held in McCook recently.

Left to Right:  
 Lisa Fortkamp, & Beth Falla, from Lied Imperial Public Library, Cindee Wagner, Palisade Public Library and Connie McCoy, Culbertson Public Library

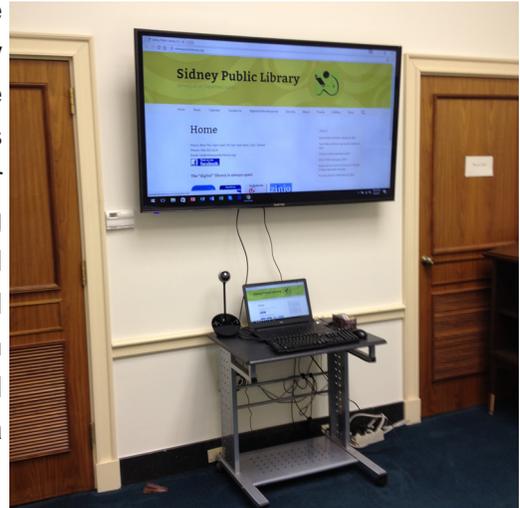
# Sidney Public Library Adds New Technology

Photos and Text submitted by Andrew "Sherm" Sherman, Director Sidney Public Library

With funding provided by a C.A. Story Foundation grant and the Sidney Public Library Foundation, a teleconferencing system has been added to the Virginia Smith Room at the Sidney Public Library. The Logitech BCC950 ConferenceCam provides a room covering web camera and microphone. The Sceptre U650CV-U 65" 4K Ultra HD television is wall mounted so it



takes up no floor space and the screen is easily viewed even with the room's lights on. This is a big improvement over the space consuming portable screen and LCD projector that had to be set up and taken down as needed and had poor visibility in a



lighted room.

With funding provided by a Thompson Foundation grant and the Sidney Public Library Foundation the library has acquired a Lulzbot Mini 3D printer. Customers can submit their 3D print jobs in the STL file format on a USB flash drive, and the library will print their object and notify them when it's ready to be picked up. At this time, the library is charging a flat \$5 fee per print job to cover the cost of the Verbatum PLA plastic materials. We have printed Christmas ornaments for the library's Christmas Trees and objects for several customers. One customer had the library print the parts she needed to construct a pet wheel chair for her cat.



## We loved the opportunity!

Photo and Text submitted by  
Beth Falla and Lisa Fortkamp

**Scholarships can  
make it happen!**

We loved the opportunity to attend the MPLA/CAL Conference in Loveland, Colorado. Thank you so much for the WLS scholarship, it really is a great help with expenses.



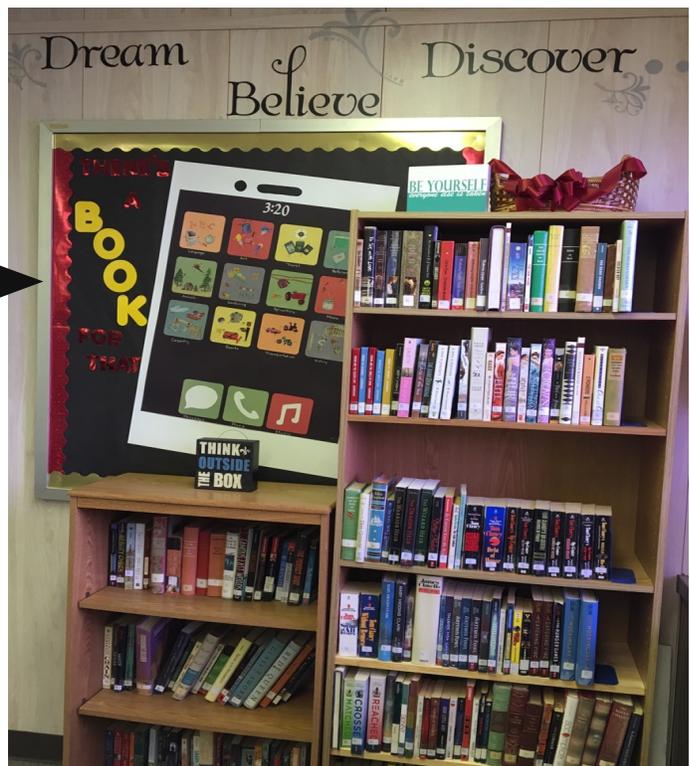
The top 10 reasons we loved this conference:

10. We got to escape from the library & reality for a couple of days and have great food that we didn't cook or clean up after.
9. It was close to home and we didn't have to switch to another time zone.
8. We were able to meet and engage with friendly and exciting new people and new ideas, recharge our enthusiasm.
7. There were awesome keynote speakers, no napping or being occupied with cell phones, well I did see a few people doing this but \_\_\_\_\_
6. Gadgets, software, toys and books galore in the vendors exhibit hall, things you really have to see to believe. Fun time playing trivia/pub quiz with Jake Rundle from the Hastings Public Library. We really have to figure out how to do this in our community, targets a different group, and could be a great way to get the "millennials" to realize that the library is relevant.
5. So many choices for sessions; hard to decide between playing with "maker space" tech toys or learn about yoga & mindfulness in a library setting or meeting community needs, or information on filming story times, or tips on difficult conversations, drop-in programming..... & the list goes on.
4. Real people that had already put together programs shared the actual programs; what to do or not do, successes, failures, fun, how much it might cost, how to build and expand what we already do.
3. Fabulous ideas and tips for adult programming and did I mention the tea was delicious "*two leaves & a bud*"
2. Even more fabulous ideas for children's programming and did I mention the spiced apple cider was delicious.
1. And the number 1 reason we loved this conference.... We learned that we are already doing so many things well; that other libraries in other states and cities much larger than ours are

# News Around The System

Dana Morgan, Leyton Public School Librarian, combined Pinterest ideas to decorate the school library. Dana has an e-Books area that has kindles that students check out. The Leyton School's shop class made the letters for that section. To the left of the e-Books is where they have a "New Books" section for items that come in and are new for students. This section showcases what has been recently received. Dana reports that the students migrate there upon entering the library to check out the "New" goods, relax, and read in the living room atmosphere. The small bulletin board at the back of the library, says There's a book for that. Again, an idea from Pinterest. :)

Photos and Information by Dana Morgan



**THERE'S A BOOK FOR THAT**



"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." The black board idea was made by using fadeless bulletin board art paper and chalk. The colored slogan was projected on the mounted paper and traced with chalk.

# News Around The System



Photo by Pat Gross

Paxton Public Library patrons have an opportunity to win special prizes locally during the promotion of the Nebraska 150 Reading Challenge. Dianne Jay, Director, has set up a special display that has promoted the program and peaked a lot of interest.

Find the Nebraska 150 Reading Challenge book list and entry form at:

<http://nebraska150books.org/get-involved/the-nebraska-150-reading-challenge.html>



The Mingle and Jingle Open House was held at the Gering Public Library on Dec. 9th. Diane Downer, Director, says the holiday celebration started when they had their 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration in 1995. The staff did it as a thank you to the community for their support. When the Friends were organized in 2000, they started helping the staff and this has become an annual event for them. Over the years, anywhere from 100 to 300 people stop in and enjoy refreshments, door prizes, and sometimes entertainment.



## Bridgeport Students "Escape from the Library"

Bridgeport Public School Librarian, Amy Widener, and Bridgeport Public Librarian, Tammy Howitt-Covalt, recently collaborated on an event for students in grades 4-6. The students were invited to the public library for an evening of clues and challenges leading to a treasure hidden in the library. Based on the best selling juvenile novel, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, participants gathered clues, found books, and performed challenges related to each number of the Dewey Decimal System. Each challenge was rewarded with another piece of the rubric needed to solve the final puzzle.

Some of the clues and challenges included: "I am classified as igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. But in this book I am a tasty ingredient." This led to the book *Stone Soup*. After showing the librarians the correct title, the challenge was for each of the four members of the team to peel a carrot. Other clues and challenges included a map, the Bermuda Triangle, making a paper airplane, mythology, Medusa, a mannequin challenge, nursery rhymes, online thesaurus, and rewriting and singing "I'm a Little Teapot".

Gering Photos provided by Sherry Preston, Public Services Librarian.

# Librarians Around The System



Vickie Retzlaff, Director, Grant County Library in Hyannis is proud of their computer area.



Maria Kling, Director, Gordon City Library works on selecting the best books

Jana Kehn, Library Technician, at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library explains Overdrive to patrons.



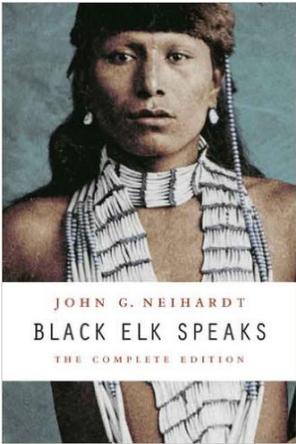
Marty Savely, Director, Broadwater Public Library has been diligently working to make the library an inviting place to visit.



Making contact visits in our 21-county system area has offered the opportunity to meet some amazing librarians in the rural west. Thanks to all those that sent pictures and articles for this WLS newsletter.

Photos provided by Pat Gross

# BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS....



## One Book One Nebraska..... *Black Elk Speaks*

On Jan. 9, 2017 Governor Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation Honoring the 2017 One Book One Nebraska: ***Black Elk Speaks*** by John G. Neihardt.

The Western Library System office has received a book kit of fifteen copies available for checkout to book clubs. Call or email Jeri to book a reservation date.

Support materials to assist with local reading and discussion activities are now available at: <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>

Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.



## A February Valentine's Day Idea

### Blind Date With a Book!

This idea is used to entice students and patrons to try different types of genres. Amira Moore used this idea last year at the Kimball High School Library. She covered many books with paper (brown or valentine wrapping paper

could be used) and created a topic paper to mount on the front of the book. If you wrap the book and tie it up with string you can use the paper when the book is returned. You could also copy an intriguing paragraph from the book to mount on the front. Amira requires her students to read 25 pages of the unwrapped book before they can reject their blind date.

**If you google: "Blind date with a book ideas" Pinterest will give you 1000+ ideas.**

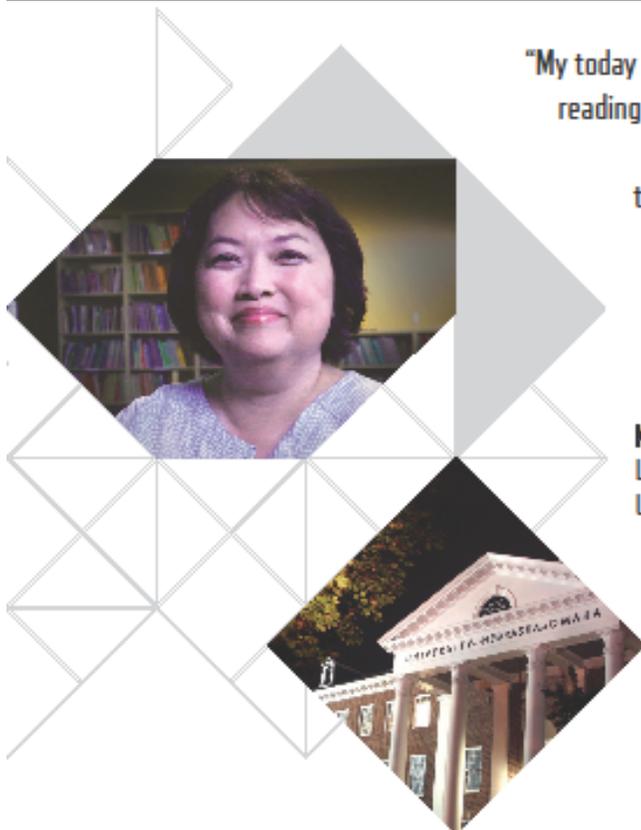


Amira Moore, Kimball High School Library

Photo by Pat Gross

# 100% ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAMS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

▶ [online.nebraska.edu/library](http://online.nebraska.edu/library)



"My today started when I took my passion to the next level. I've always loved reading and loved the world that books could take me into. Although I was busy with my children at home and my career working in a school, the library science program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha helped me further pursue my passion. It gave me flexibility for my busy schedule, exposed me to real-life opportunities to experience a spectrum of libraries and prepared me for future trends in libraries. I love being a librarian and the role I play in being a gateway to knowledge."

**Kim Gangwleh**  
Library Science  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

## Why get a library science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha?

- 100% Online Options
- Accredited
- Affordable
- Award-Winning Faculty
- High-Tech Learning Environments
- Engaged Advising
- Local and Regional Professional Networks
- Field Site Experiences in Many Courses
- High Employment Placement Rates

### ▶ GET STARTED BY CONTACTING:

Erica Rose  
[ecrose@unomaha.edu](mailto:ecrose@unomaha.edu)  
970.231.7372  
[online.nebraska.edu/library](http://online.nebraska.edu/library)

*Also, ask about our blended master's programs.*

**University of  
Nebraska**  
*Online Worldwide*  
LEARNER | LINCOLN | OMAHA | MEDICAL CENTER

**WLS Board of Directors:**

Maryruth Reed, President

Kathy Terrell, Vice President

Jill Hurtt, Secretary

Tammy Howitt-Covalt

Carole Matthews

Stephanie Mika

Allison Reisig

Vickie Retzlaff

Allison Roberts

Ruth Walker

**Western Library System**

115 Railway Street  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Phone:  
308-632-1350

Toll Free:  
888-879-5303

Fax: 308-632-3978

**Webpage:**

<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>

**Counties Served:**

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Hooker, McPherson, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Hayes, and Hitchcock

**Board of Directors bi-monthly meeting minutes are archived on the Western Library System website:**

<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>



*Happy Valentines Day!*

The Western Sun is published 6 times a year by the Western Library System. This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.