



STAFF UPDATES

Angela Forrett started her role as a Library Resource Technician in Specialized Library Services on July 17. Angela most recently was with the Clive Public Library in a number of positions and Campbell's Nutrition. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the position and is working to assist the team with our NEH grant project with the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

FY 19 & FY20 BUDGET UPDATE

As you will see as part of the meeting materials, we have successfully closed out FY19. We were able to use the entire budget allocated successfully. Great job by staff to ensure that we continue to be good stewards of this funding. It was a challenging year but I feel that we were able to accomplish our goals successfully. FY20 has begun with the State Library's general operating budget as well as the Enrich Iowa budget remaining status quo, at \$2.53M and \$2.46M respectively. Distribution of the Enrich Iowa funding is underway with the goal to have it distributed before the end of calendar year 2019.

On the federal side, the State Library is still working on two IMLS funding allocations in FY20. Through the first quarter of FY20 (July – September 2019), the agency will fully utilizing funding allotted in FFY18 (started in October 2017). In October 2019, the State Library will begin utilizing funding allotted in FFY19 (started in October 2018). This funding will be available to the agency through September 2020. Just as a reminder, the agency is given two years to utilize federal funding through the IMLS Grants to States Program. With the changes in personnel, we have been able to utilize funding to add some additional online resources for statewide availability including Opposing Viewpoints from Gale, the [Foundation Directory](#) which provides access to private funding sources, and Wilson Core Collections from EBSCO.

CHANGE TO THE LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE PROGRAM THROUGH IOWA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

The following announcement was sent out to the teacher email list maintained by the Iowa Center for the Book, part of the State Library. In June 2019, the Library of Congress announced that they would no longer be providing support for the Letters about Literature competition. Iowa Center for the Book will continue to offer this competition in the 2019-2020 school year.

The Iowa Center for the Book has some important news about the Letters About Literature competition. For the 2019-2020 program, the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress will discontinue its support of Letters About Literature to focus on developing new programs to fulfill their strategic plan goals. This means that the national Center for the Book will no longer receive the letters and provide first and second round judging; there will also no longer be a national competition level.

But, there's good news! The national Center for the Book gave the option to its state affiliates to self-manage the Letters About Literature program from start to finish. Because of the enduring success and enthusiasm of the program in Iowa, the Iowa Center for the Book will continue with the state-level competition and will manage the program in house.

What does this mean for Iowa student entries?

Not much will seem different for those entering the competition from previous years. The process for submitting letters will remain the same as last year, via an online portal from Submittable. The 2019-2020 competition is expected to launch later in September; and the three levels of competition (Level 1: grades 4-6, Level 2: grades 7-8, Level 3: grades 9-12) will be retained, along with cash prizes for winners and honorable mentions. The biggest change is that the winners will culminate at the state level and will no longer be sent on to compete at the national level.

Letters about Literature has touched more than 1 million students in grades 4-12 nationwide during its 27-year history. At its peak, more than 70,000 students entered their letters each year and wrote about how books have changed their lives for the better. Iowa has had five winners at the national level in 14 years of participation. We know that Iowa teachers are passionate about Letters About Literature, which is why the Iowa Center for the Book is committed to continuing the program at the state level. Look for more information soon on the 2019-2020 Letters About Literature program launch.

Thank you for your support of Letters About Literature and the Iowa Center for the Book!

FEDERAL FUNDING USED TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY AND DELIVERY GRANTS

On April 16, 2019, the 2019 LSTA Library Technology Grants program was launched for Iowa public libraries. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for libraries who meet the requirements for the Enrich Iowa program, have completed the Edge Assessment, and developed an Action Plan of priorities using the Edge website. Additional information can be found [here](#). Applications were due on May 31. We were able to award nearly \$350,000 in funding to 58 libraries. Participating libraries have until September 30, 2019, to expend the dollars and seek reimbursement. Additional information can be found in this [news article](#) on our website.

On May 17, 2019, the State Library launched a grant program for Iowa academic libraries for up to \$5,000 to encourage participation in the [Iowa Academic Library Alliance delivery consortium](#). Participation is ongoing for this grant program but the goal is for academic libraries to apply by September 1, 2019, for this grant opportunity. Currently we've had 5 applications for the grant.

STATEWIDE DELIVERY SERVICE!

At long last, I'm pleased to announce that the State Library is finally bringing statewide delivery to Iowa public libraries! Stat Courier has been awarded the contract for a statewide delivery system for Iowa public libraries. The contract has been signed by both parties and we are moving forward with the process of launching the delivery service statewide.

The service will offer at least one day of delivery per week to every public library in Iowa. State Library staff is already working with Stat Courier to anticipate questions and comments libraries will have. We will develop an FAQ page on our website and will also have a form for libraries to submit questions or feedback that has not yet been answered or addressed.

[The million-dollar question: when will the delivery service start?](#)

Short answer: mid-October at the earliest.

Long answer: State Library staff are meeting with Stat Courier the first week in September to begin the process of transition, rollout, and to determine procedures for libraries. Stat Courier is an experienced provider of this type of service and has worked with many library systems, so we are confident they will efficiently lead us through this process. Stat Courier believes that mid-October is an achievable goal, but we have cautioned libraries that this service is being built from the ground up and patience will be necessary. The staff team met with Stat Courier on September 6 and has November 1st as the start date.

LIBRARY VISITS

June 2019

- No library visits (after June 6, reported in June 2019 report)

July 2019

- July 8
 - Osceola Public Library
 - Murray Public Library
- July 17
 - Sioux City Public Library (3 branches)

August 2019

- August 22
 - Matilda J Gibson Memorial Library (Creston)
 - Prescott Public Library
 - Corning Public Library
- August 23
 - Coin Public Library
 - Lied Public Library – Clarinda
 - Shenandoah Public Library
 - Lied Essex Public Library
- August 26
 - Elma Public Library
 - Cresco Public Library
 - Lime Springs Public Library
 - New Albin Public Library
- August 27
 - Dolores Tillinghast Public Library – Harpers Ferry
 - Meehan Memorial Public Library – Lansing
 - Robey Memorial Library – Waukon
 - Waterville Public Library

September 2019

- September 4
 - Clarksville Public Library
 - Benny Gambaiani Public Library – Shell Rock

- Greene Public Library
- Allison Public Library
- Dumont Community Library
- September 9
 - Missouri Valley Public Library
 - Logan Public Library
- September 11
 - Crew Public Library (Salem)
 - New London Public Library
- September 12
 - Mount Pleasant Public Library
 - Winfield Public Library

OTHER MEETINGS

June 2019

- Western Council of State Libraries Annual Meeting (June 20) – Washington DC
- American Library Association Annual Conference (June 21 – 24) – Washington DC
- 2019 Center for the Book Affiliates Idea Exchange (June 25) – Washington DC

July 2019

- No meetings!

August 2019

- Gale Account Review (August 1)
- State Library Advisory Panel Meeting (August 6)
- ILA Executive Board (August 9) – Drake Community Library (Grinnell)
- Administrative Rules Review Committee (August 12) – State Capitol
- Meeting with Sarvinder Naberhaus for publicity photos with her book chosen as Iowa's selection for the Great Reads About Great Places list at the National Book Festival (August 19) – Law Library
- Page County Public Library Trustees Meeting (August 22) – Lied Public Library (Clarinda)

September 2019

- Future Ready Iowa Employer Summit @ United Equipment Accessories (Waverly; September 4)
- Meeting with Stat Courier about statewide delivery service for public libraries (September 6)
- Future Ready Iowa Employer Summit @ Crawford County Memorial Hospital (Denison; September 9)
- Administrative Rules Review Committee (September 10) – State Capitol
- Future Ready Iowa Employer Summit @ Cass County Health System (Atlantic; September 11)
- Future Ready Iowa Employer Summit @ Winegard Company (Burlington; September 12)