

**VII. STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

**A.3. Operations - ILA 2015 Conference Update – Information Item**

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Thank you, Becky, for the very nice introduction. This will be a quick overview of what the Commission has been up to this past year.

Starting out – with help from ILA we were successful in increasing state funding for the School Library Access minigrants.

- The Governor recommended a permanent increase to \$200,000 / year for the grants, and the Legislature approved it. Many thanks to the ILA Legislative Committee and John Watts for your effective work to gain support for the request.

Our community building initiative is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, with 2 new library teams joining the original 4 working on local projects to increase their community impact, and exchanging information on their successes and challenges. The libraries will showcase their projects during a webinar, November 17.

LiLAC, our Library Leadership partnership with ILA, is very active developing tools & resources to build stronger leaders in our library community. Phil Eastman's workshop yesterday and keynote on leadership this morning are part of LiLAC's work.

We joined the grant-funded effort to establish an Idaho After School Network of providers with the intent of increasing the visibility of the range of out of school programs libraries statewide provide.

Both the Commission & ILA had representatives on the Governor's Task Force on literacy proficiency. Libraries needed to be at that table, and we now need to build on the recognition we gained there.

Our Make It at the Library initiative, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, is producing outstanding results in participating libraries, as well as earning national attention for contributing to the emerging body of best practices in this emerging library service.

Our Summer Summit for school library workers was very well attended. Participants, mentors, and guest speakers all demonstrated a remarkable level of creativity and enthusiasm.

SPLAT's Great Summer Adventure was a great success with both library staff and the public in eastern Idaho. And more adventuresome than planned.

- SPLAT members are here at the conference, so please ask them about their experiences with their Idea Labs and dealing with the unexpected.

We're working with the State Department of Education (SDE) to roll out Microsoft's IT Academy in interested public libraries. About 30 have opted in so far, and we look forward to learning from their first year implementation.

- Rick Kennedy from SDE will be at the Commission's table during part of the conference to answer questions you might have.

We're working with several multi-organizational groups addressing the need to have more Idaho students graduate ready for college or career.

- We participated in Educate Idaho Network's recent conference and just joined the effort led by the Department of Labor to strengthen career counseling with our career-related resources available through all libraries in the LiLI databases and LearningExpress Library.

Next week I'll testify to the Legislative Interim Committee on broadband access. My main point to them will be that our public libraries need more affordable, reliable, and scalable Broad Band (BB) to deliver their services, and they need to be included in any statewide planning for BB.

Our enhancement request for the FY17 state budget - a request for new state funding – is for about \$180,000 to expand our support for STEM programming in libraries.

- The request was endorsed by the ILA Board
- Our current Make It at the Library initiative is our largest program incorporating STEM concepts, and RTM began including STEAM content several years ago – virtually all are funded through federal LSTA from IMLS.
- If our request is funded, we'll be able to extend Make It to more libraries and reach more underserved audiences with a variety of STEM programming through partnerships with libraries.

Like Phil in his keynote this AM, I want to end with a call to action to each of you.

- Idaho libraries have higher visibility among local and state policy makers than 10 or even 5 years ago, but we need more recognition of our value to keep our services relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- I ask each of you to invite a local or state policy maker – city council member, county commissioner, school board member, State Board of Education member, state legislator, director of Department of Commerce or Labor, the Governor – to visit your library or attend a library event – to see first hand how you serve your community, and to do that before next year's ILA Conference.
- Collectively, we need to show our policy makers what we are doing and how we continue to be relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for your work in Idaho libraries. Enjoy the conference.