

THE Envoy

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ICfL Board Tours Libraries in Southwest Idaho

The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners visited seven libraries in southwest Idaho in October. The Board tours libraries annually, choosing a different area of the state each year. This year’s tour included Desert Sage Elementary School; Ada Community Library, Lake Hazel Branch; College of Western Idaho library; Caldwell Public Library; Meridian Library District, main branch; and Garden City Public Library on October 9; with a tour and a regularly scheduled board meeting at Mountain Home Public Library on October 10.

At the Desert Sage Elementary School library, librarian Karen Stahlecker, Principal Lisa Hahle, and 2nd grade teacher Jean Boyer described how they worked on Idaho Commission for Libraries’

(ICfL) Summer Slide Pilot Program with our VISTA volunteer and Ada Community Library staff. Kids loved the book choices the program offered; being able to choose was a powerful experience for them. Next year they will add more presentations from community members, as well as a toddler component because entire families came in during the summer program.

At Ada Community Library, after a welcome from director Mary DeWalt, Anna Langrill and Alex Hartman gave the tour. They explained how they use the Glades system, a blend of bookstore and Dewey decimal; described how their “Dog tale” stories get kids reading out loud; and demonstrated their maker area and resources, with 3D printers, squishy circuits, snap circuits, and soldering irons. The library is also in the second of five years of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

College of Western Idaho’s Kim Leeder described how starting

a new library is both a challenge and an opportunity with freedom to try new things. Since 2009, the college has gone from 0 to 19,000 students. The library supports a variety of technical programs and staff is slowly building a collection for the many different degrees and certifications, many times purchasing books on demand. The library serves the community as well as the students, allowing use of Wi-Fi and computers and making every effort to give back to the community.

Caldwell Public Library was getting ready for the October 23 Grand Reopening of their children’s and community/programs areas. Director Lacey Welt and board chair Larry Blackburn explained that the sturdy 1970s architecture of the building is able to handle the remodel and they gave the Commissioners a sneak preview. The colorful murals in children’s room are interchangeable and the entrance that kids can crawl through is sure to be a hit. The

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Mission:

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

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The Envoy is mailed quarterly to all public library directors and trustees listed in the ICfL online library directory. PDFs are available at: libraries.idaho.gov/publications/trustee-news.

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remodeled community room has a demonstration area for programs like cooking. The library is also building a self-checkout and a “book store” area, revitalizing itself to better serve the community.

At Meridian Library District, director Gretchen Caserotti and librarian Cheri Rendler described the massive changes and growth in the district, which is still a blend of urban and rural. The library is well supported and well used by the community, with an annual circulation of 1 million. Using an RFID automated sorter and a self-checkout makes staff more available for reader services. Meridian tries to make the library as welcoming as possible. They posted signage that tells people what they *can* do rather than what they *can't* do, enclosed the teen area to allow for reasonable noise without disturbing other patrons, and built a 24-hour holds section in the lobby. They are participating in ICfL's Make It at the Library project and developed Make It–Take It maker kits for check out.

Garden City Public Library was preparing for the October 23 Grand Opening of their Legacy Courtyard, which was funded by their Library Foundation. Director Lindsey Pettyjohn and trustees Jim Owens and Carolyn Pietz were happy to give the Commissioners a peek. Garden City has a wide range of income levels and they are currently researching demographics on cardholders. The library is open 54 hours per week and sees about 600 people per day, 40-50% of whom use computers.

67% of residents are card holders but staff is trying to take the library to people in lower-income neighborhoods who can't make it in to the library. Their Bells for Books bookmobile already distributes books and snacks, along with mittens and hats in the winter.

On Friday, at Mountain Home Public Library, director Luise House, Mayor Tom Rist, two trustees, and the entire staff greeted the Commissioners. Trustee Kelly Everitt led the tour and explained that the architect designed the building for 2nd story expansion. The library entrance is a spacious commons area, with a café and beverages, frequently used for community presentations and a place to do homework. The library is committed to serving Spanish speakers and also works closely with area schools. Their Tech Center is well-used; a patron working at a computer realized that the Commissioners were on a tour and she took the time to tell them how much she appreciated public access at the library because she needed to create a presentation and didn't have the software at home.

The annual fall tour of libraries is a highlight for the Commissioners. They enjoy getting into libraries; meeting the librarians; and seeing first-hand the range of services, facilities, and challenges in Idaho. See tour photos at www.flickr.com/photos/icflphotos/sets/72157646940178723/.



Public Libraries Nurture Entrepreneurship by Erica Compton, project coordinator

I had the distinct pleasure of being invited to present at the 2014 Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship in Louisville, KY, October 15–16. With a focus on “Making an Entrepreneurial City,” over 120 mayors, economic development staff, and entrepreneurship experts came together to discuss ways to promote startup activity and encourage higher levels of entrepreneurship in their cities.

The conference was convened, in partnership with Mayor Greg Fischer of Louisville, by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a private, nonpartisan foundation that aims to foster economic independence by advancing educational achievement and entrepreneurial success. One area of focus was the growing “maker movement,” and its role in innovation, entrepreneurship, and building a city’s economy. My invitation to present was due to the national recognition of the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ innovative statewide “Make It at the Library” project, which I co-lead with my colleague Sue Walker. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to share the role that libraries can play in this vital area.

I sat on a panel featuring Ross Baird, CEO of Village Capital, and Alexander Bandar, CEO and Founder of the Columbus IDEA Foundry. Our moderator, Mayor Paul Soglin of Madison, WI, led us in a robust and interesting discussion on the role of the maker movement on entrepreneurship. I was able to focus on a very specific topic: how do we cultivate entrepreneurship and innovation at an early age so our

youth are prepared for an ever-changing job market and future? How do we provide our youth with important “soft” skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration, AND introduce them to emerging technologies like 3D printing, robotics, and wearable electronics, so they are ready to tackle any challenge, job, or career? My answer—making! And more specifically, making in libraries!

To help frame this statement and provide some background, I shared with attendees a startling fact: typical 18-year-olds spend only 18.5% of their waking hours in formal educational settings! That means a lot of out-of-school time can be maximized for our youth and help them build valuable skills.

But, the reality is that not all children have the opportunity to attend an afterschool program. Afterschool Alliance just released the America After 3PM report with statistics from 2014:

- 19% of Idaho’s children (54,797) are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.
- 42% of Idaho’s children would participate in an afterschool program if one were available.
- Only 8% of Idaho’s children participate in an afterschool program (compared to 9% in 2009 and 9% in 2004).

These statistics show a huge unmet need in our communities. And since major barriers include ability



Erica Compton on a panel discussing the role of the maker movement on entrepreneurship. See more at www.kauffman.org/blogs/policy-dialogue/2014/november/getting-the-fit-right.

to pay and program availability, I believe that making in libraries is key to filling this need.

So back to building innovators and entrepreneurs ready to take on any future....

Libraries can offer free and open out-of-school learning opportunities that provide kids with the chance to create, innovate, explore, and problem-solve. They are places where kids can work with new tools and emerging technologies, enhance current skills and learn new ones, and learn the importance of failing forward (the process of learning from mistakes or failures to improve upon a design or concept).

Libraries are well-positioned to ensure that entrepreneurship and innovation are second nature to our children, preparing them for the possibilities ahead. Through the Make It at the Library project, the Commission will continue to support and develop Idaho libraries’ efforts to bolster economic growth in their communities through entrepreneurship and innovation.

2014 "What a Deal" Idaho Tax Credit Fact Sheet Available

The "What a Deal" Idaho Tax Credit fact sheet for 2014, designed to help you promote donations to your public library or library district, is available on the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/public-library-contribution-tax-credit>. Please copy the fact sheet freely and use

it to encourage members of your community to donate to your library.

The credit is limited to the smallest of one-half of the amount contributed, 50% of the individual's income tax, or \$500 (\$1,000 on a joint return).

If you have questions, check with your accountant or the Idaho State Tax Commission for complete information.

To receive a deduction for 2014, individuals or corporations must donate to the library by December 31, 2014.

ILA 2014 Annual Conference and Awards

The 2014 Idaho Library Association (ILA) Annual Conference, "Riding the River of Change," offered something for everyone, with workshops, business meetings, a legislative panel, presentations, a welcome and "year in review" from State Librarian Ann Joslin (see <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/state-librarian-welcome-2014>), and an awards banquet. Congratulations to the following, recognized at the 2014 Awards Banquet for their contributions to Idaho libraries:

- **Public Library of the Year:** Meridian Library District— Director Gretchen Caserotti said they have a great team that continuously asks themselves "Why are we here, what are we doing, how do we do it best?"
- **Librarian of the Year:** Karen Yother, Community Library Network, Hayden— Director John Hartung said that Karen, who recently celebrated her 17th year of library service, was one of his "go to" people.
- **Trustee of the Year:** Robert (Bob) Fulton, Lewiston City Library— Director Alexa Eccles said that

Bob was instrumental in the eventual success of their new library, persevering because he didn't want "another generation of Lewiston residents to be denied outstanding service." (See story on page 5).

- **Special Services to Libraries:** Shirley Biladeau, Idaho Commission for Libraries consultant (ICfL)— ILA President Rami Attebury said Shirley was being recognized for her continued dedication to professional development, as well as her professionalism, enthusiasm, "spunk," and being "just plain nice."
- **Legislator of the Year:** Representative Phylis King, District 18, Boise— ILA Legislative Committee Member Michael Greenlee recognized Rep. King for her commitment to libraries and early literacy, and being a strong voice for the Read to Me Mini-Grant enhancement request of an additional \$100,000. Because of King's support, ICfL was able to



ILA President Rami Attebury and ILA Trustee of the Year Robert Fulton

provide grants to more than twice as many elementary schools as the previous year.

- **Idaho Book Award:** Two books focused on Idaho's World War II internment camps: *As Rugged as the Terrain*, by Priscilla Wegars and *Surviving Minidoka*, edited by Russell Tremayne and Todd Shallat
- **School Library Media Program of the Year:** Centennial High School, Boise/ Gena Marker

Find conference photos on ILA's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IdahoLibraries.



Building a Dream with Dedication and Determination: Lewiston Library Foundation receives Nonprofit Excellence Award

The Lewiston Library Foundation was one of six organizations to receive the “Nonprofit Excellence Award” from the Idaho Nonprofit Center. One of 108 nominees statewide, the Foundation was selected for its innovation, inspiration, and impact on the building of the new Lewiston library.

In 1977, the Lewiston City Library moved into a temporary space—a former hardware store that shared one wall with a bar. After years of searching for a permanent space, during which there were two failed bond issues, Lewiston opened the doors of its beautiful new library in the heart of downtown in June 2013. This “long-deferred dream” became a reality in large part because of the undaunted efforts of the Lewiston Library Foundation, which worked tirelessly through the years building partnerships between citizens, businesses, and city officials.

The Foundation raised funds from hundreds of donors and provided the funds to match and then double the City’s contribution. “Our willingness to raise a matching portion of the funding was the impetus for restarting and reimagining the possibilities for a modern library and inspired the City Council to set aside designated funds even in a time of economic uncertainty,” said Marcia Banta, Lewiston Library Foundation President. The Foundation raised over \$2,500,000 from businesses and individuals who care deeply

about the future of library services in Lewiston, and is still working on funding to finish the second-floor portions of the project.

Banta attributes much of the fundraising success to the determination and inspiration of Foundation “movers and shakers” from all aspects of the community—businesses from downtown to the orchards, the health industry, and educators. These members are willing to reach out to community members; interact face-to-face, with genuine listening and sharing; and ask for what they think donors can give. Banta emphasized that saying “Thank you” is a big piece of the effort. The library has a highly visible electronic board with rotating donor names and a wall proudly displaying donor names, large and small. The Foundation also brings in money through their Annual Gala Fundraiser, where ticket purchasers are treated to a gourmet meal and a chance to win a \$5,000 trip.

Banta noted that Dawn Wittman, current Foundation board member and former library director, has been the “shining light” through these years of effort. Director Alexa Eccles agreed, and also credited the library board—including Idaho Library Association Trustee of the Year, Bob Fulton, who persevered because he didn’t want “another generation of Lewiston residents to be denied outstanding service.” The trustees, the Lewiston



Foundation President Marcia Banta and Director Alexa Eccles with the Nonprofit Excellence Award

Library Foundation, and Wittman are all committed to adding space to serve the city of Lewiston and worked through public and private partnerships to make it happen. The library’s relocation revitalized Lewiston’s downtown area; its presence as a community hub increased foot traffic and invigorated the retail and business area. Eccles described the story of their beautiful library in downtown Lewiston as one of “desire, failure, and persistence.”

“Really,” said Banta, “the Nonprofit Excellence Award award is a celebration of all of Lewiston and their work to fulfill a dream.”

Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries

To help advance the work that public libraries are doing to address community challenges and to support the transformation of public libraries, the Aspen Institute’s Communications and Society Program is spearheading a multi-year initiative to explore, develop, and champion new ways of thinking about US public libraries.

The first year’s work culminated in the release of the report at <http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/documents//AspenLibrariesReport.pdf>.



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This project is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

ICfL Welcomes New Eastern Idaho Field Consultant

Patrick Bodily hit the ground running as Idaho Commission for Libraries' new eastern Idaho field consultant. In early October he attended the Idaho Library Association Annual Conference in Lewiston, meeting librarians and getting to know the Idaho library community. Since then he's been working on public library statistics, formatting the FY2013 statistics for distribution and preparing the form for FY2014 data collection. Bodily earned his bachelor's degree and has nearly completed work on a master's in history from Utah State University. He comes to the Commission from Richfield Public Library in Utah, where he served as director. This public library background has given him experience working with boards, city council, budgets, and funding issues.

While attending a Library Consortium of Eastern Idaho meeting in mid-October, Bodily was impressed to see how Idaho librarians from different libraries work together with their limited resources to increase services and expand their reach into the communities they serve. He notes that public libraries are changing and they are so much more than "spaces that hold books." He is excited about working with Idaho librarians to change this public perception into one of libraries as community gathering places with opportunities to learn about new technology, innovate and create, and access numerous resources.

Bodily is delighted about moving back to Idaho. He grew up in Preston and his wife is originally from Idaho Falls, so they are thrilled to be back

in eastern Idaho raising their three children, ages 6, 3, and 4 months. He looks forward to working with the librarians who also call it home.

The Commission is very happy to have Patrick Bodily on board.



Eastern Idaho Field Consultant
Patrick Bodily