December 2009

Dear School Principal,

Soon you will receive an invitation from your school librarian to attend one of our upcoming Partnering to Shape 21st Century Learners regional sessions, to be held from 9 am to 3 pm in Coeur d'Alene on Wednesday, February 3, in Pocatello on Saturday, February 20 and in Boise on Saturday, April 24. I hope that you will attend the morning sessions to hear the results of the Idaho School Impact study and you are welcome to stay for the entire workshop. Endorsed by the Idaho State Department of Education, the study was commissioned in spring 2009. Correlated with post-appeal ISAT data to gauge the effect of school library programs, the survey results assess the status and impact of school library programs on the academic achievement of students.

Effective partnerships are shaped by the needs of different stakeholders—parents, teachers, administrators, legislators, and librarians—with the goal of creating 21st century learners. School librarians who register you (for the morning sessions) and one or more parents will be eligible to be placed into a drawing for a year-long eBook subscription from Gale Cengage Learning. Librarians are encouraged to invite technical support staff and teachers as well. The agenda is enclosed for your review.

We are fortunate to have Lisa Layera Brunkan and Susan McBurney, co-founders of The Washington Coalition for School Libraries & Information Technology (aka the Washington Moms) as our presenters. Last year they led a grass-roots campaign in Washington State to raise the awareness of the importance of libraries on student academic success.

The Commission is using LSTA funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to cover meal costs for you and your team. Your librarian will need to register with his or her team information by January 21 (Coeur d'Alene), February 5 (Pocatello), or April 10 (Boise) online at http://libraries.idaho.gov/slpartners. For more information, contact Anne Abrams or Shirley Biladeau at 208-334-2150 or 800-458-3271.

Sincerely,

Ann Joslin, State Librarian

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