

NEWS RELEASE

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BOISE, Idaho -- The Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF) made a \$15,000 donation to the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) for the Idaho Libraries Welcome All project in support of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).

The funds will provide targeted, curated training opportunities, free of charge, for Idaho librarians and library staff to expand their knowledge, interest, and investment in creating a welcoming library environment that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive for all patrons. The EDI professional development will be available to library staff from all types of libraries in throughout Idaho -- public, school, academic, and special, which includes tribal.

The BUUF donation will also extend the ICfL's Welcoming Libraries Grant, which improves EDI in Idaho's libraries and supports library staff in better assisting underserved children in their communities.

BUUF Reverend Sara LaWall said, "As Unitarian Universalists, our faith roots itself in justice, equity, compassion, and the inherent worth of all people. Our fellowship chose to support the Idaho Libraries Welcome All project because it aligns so powerfully with our values and mission, and it supports the collective thriving of our wider community. As a part of this project, we've been impressed with the way the ICfL's Welcoming Libraries Grant expands resources for a variety of needs, from increasing the collection and including more authors of color, to providing supportive tools for children with special needs. Our congregation donated directly to this cause, with a range of gifts as varied as the individuals who believe in this work and the power of books and a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive library to change lives."

Deputy State Librarian Tammy Hawley-House said, "The ICfL is appreciative of the funding from the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at a point when many of our Idaho library staff members are increasing their understanding of equity, diversity, and inclusion. The training the ICfL will be able to provide to library staff because of the BUUF funding will greatly advance this area of professional development at a critical time."

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho to better serve their communities through: statewide programming and resources, like Read to Me and Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI); consulting; continuing education; partnerships; and aid to underserved populations, such as the visually impaired through the Talking Book Service. For more information, visit: <https://libraries.idaho.gov>.

Photo (from left to right): From the ICfL: Deputy State Librarian Tammy Hawley-House; State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White; and Youth Services Program Coordinator Kristina Taylor. From BUUF: Kumiko Lawrence, Mary Tordella Ruckh, Debra Smith, Rev. Sara LaWall, Eileen Oldag, and Tom Neale.