

PRESS RELEASE

Nov. 3, 2016

For Immediate Release

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11 Librarians Earn Montana State Library Certification

(HELENA) --- The Montana State Library is pleased to announce that 11 librarians from across Montana have received certificates from the Montana State Library certification program for library directors, staff, and trustees. The goal of the Montana State Library's certification program is to ensure that Montana's library patrons receive the best possible library service.

Those receiving certificates include Danise Ard, North Valley Public Library in Stevensville; Catherine Kopf, Butte-SilverBow Public Library; Debbie Wellman, Chouteau County Library in Fort Benton; Gavin Woltjer, Billings Public Library; Connie Leistiko, Imagine IF Kalispell; Debbie Davis, Harlowton Public Library; Starla Rice, Preston Hot Springs Town-County Library; Mary Perrier, Billings Public Library; Donna Howe, Big Horn Country Public Library in Hardin; Stephen Haddad, Missoula Public Library; and Richard Ball, Lincoln County Public Libraries in Libby.

"Library services are changing and today's librarians have to be knowledgeable in a wide range of areas – from human resources to online information delivery," said Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian. "Additionally, Montana librarians have to work extra hard to provide the best in modern library service in our rural state by making innovative use of technology and resource sharing. Our library certification program rewards the efforts of librarians like these to keep their skills up to date."

To receive the Library Certification, the librarians earned more than 60 valid continuing education credits in a four-year period. Certification expires in four years, so librarians must continue to seek professional development to maintain their certification.

"Montana librarians are public servants and this certification program helps them to provide top-notch service to our state's citizens," said Stapp. "Whether a patron needs help looking for work, planning a trip, applying for college scholarships, or just finding a good book for the weekend, our librarians will help them find whatever they need to move forward with their lives."

Through its statewide programs, the Montana State Library empowers Montanans; enhances learning in families and communities; builds 21st Century skills; and provides opportunities for civic participation. For more information about the Montana State Library, visit msl.mt.gov.

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