

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Sue Jackson, SWIM Coordinator

Date: September 19, 2012

Re: SWIM update

In August, sixty-three SWIM students completed their library education programs: forty-eight with MLS degrees from the University of North Texas (UNT) and fifteen with School Library Media Endorsement credentials. Ten additional students will graduate from UNT in the last year of the SWIM project: five in December 2012, one in February 2013, and four in summer 2013. One SLME student will not complete the program and has been asked to repay the scholarship.

On August 18th, UNT hosted a SWIM graduation ceremony for the MLS students on the MSU-Billings campus. Brent Roberts served as ceremony and reception host. Jennie, Lauren, Suzanne, and I joined a large audience of family members who came to celebrate the thirty new SWIM librarians who participated. It was a very special ceremony with full regalia (see the graduation photo) and congratulatory messages from Kevin Cherry (representing IMLS), Dean Herman Totten (UNT), and representatives from each of the SWIM state library partners.

The next step is for the new librarians to begin fulfillment of the SWIM employment requirement. This means working two years in a full-time professional librarian position in any type of library in any of the SWIM states. So far, MSL has reviewed and approved twenty-one positions for SWIM librarians and other positions will be sent for review in the next few weeks. Graduates not yet working in a qualifying position will continue to apply for jobs. If they have not been successful within six months of graduation, they can request an extension to continue the search.

Of the \$855,659 received from IMLS for the SWIM project, \$783,812 – that's 91% -- has been used for student support in the form of tuition, assistance attending UNT-required face-to-face institutes, and assistance attending state, regional and national library conferences. MSL has received \$3,985 in indirect costs for serving as administrator of the project.

There is currently a balance in the SWIM budget of \$32,000 and the Advisory Council met online on September 18th to discuss possible uses for this money. One suggestion is to provide

small scholarships to students in the region who are in UNT's "new" SWIM cohort. This cohort started classes over Labor Day weekend with at least 11 students from the SWIM region, including MSL's own Melody Condron. Another suggestion for the remaining grant funds is to provide additional training for school librarians through state library associations. A decision about using the balance will be made with approval from IMLS.

Letters (and graduation photos) have been sent to Montana's Congressional representatives detailing the benefit and impact of IMLS-funded programs for our state and our region. A statewide press release will also be issued about the SWIM graduates. For our state, twenty-one Montanans have successfully completed coursework to become professional librarians: fourteen with MLS degrees and seven with SLME credentials. Three more will graduate with Master's degrees by the end of the SWIM project. This means a total of twenty-four new librarians to provide high-quality information services in public, school, academic and special libraries. A list of the Montana SWIMmers is included with this update.

Montana SWIM Graduates

Completed Master of Library Science (MLS) degree

Matt Beckstrom (Helena)
Linda Blomquist (Dillon)
Nancy Clark (Billings)
Mitch Grady (Anaconda)
Karolyn Grimm (Bozeman)
Pam Harrington (Missoula)
Cheryl Hoover (Billings)
Dana Kopp (Missoula)
Lisa Lykins (Kalispell)
Alana Mueller-Brunckhorst (Wilsall)
Ann Rebarchik (Frenchtown)
Barbara Riebe (Billings)
Nancy Venable (Havre)
Jennifer Wilke (Billings)

Completed School Library Media Endorsement credentials

Nancy Coultas (Roundup)
Jennifer Crisman (Great Falls)
Debbie Denowh (Sidney)
Joelfre Grant (Ronan)
Kris Keller (Kalispell)
Nancy Lunday (Helena)
Michelle O'Rourke (Great Falls)

Graduating in December 2012 with MLS degree

Anna Geary (Great Falls)
Reena McCarthy (Missoula)

Graduating in summer 2013 with MLS degree

Megan Glidden (Kalispell)