

Centennial State Libraries

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Bookmarks:

- [Leadership Changes at State Library, New Director Appointed](#)
- [Call for CAL '05 Conference Proposals – Rockin' with Colorado Libraries: Takin' Care of Business!](#)
- [Community Relations Awards Noted](#)
- [Awards for Lamar Public Library](#)
- [Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Awards Minigrants to Libraries](#)
- [Target Local Giving Program](#)
- [Rural Development Grants May Help Selected Libraries](#)

Leadership Changes at State Library, New Director Appointed

Today is my last day as Colorado State Librarian. I want to thank all of you who sent me retirement good wishes and who contributed to my retirement present and party. It was a wonderful affair.

I'd like to make a couple of quick personal observations about my work here and mention some challenges I think we face.

First, I'm proud of what we have been able to accomplish. You have generously given me credit for some of these accomplishments, but the truth is that this state has the most incredible history of cooperation among libraries that I've ever seen.

Here are some of the things we've done that make us great.

- We are still the only state in the country where all types of libraries check out their books to all Colorado residents without any reimbursement – the only state.
- We were the second state after Vermont (but they were so small it doesn't count) to have free dial-in lines to a statewide online catalog of library materials. This has developed into the Colorado Virtual Library and AskColorado and the Newspaper project and online tutoring.
- We did the landmark study showing the impact of school libraries on student achievement. We were the first and now there are 15 states with similar studies, all showing the same results.

- We worked together to create a statewide digitization program that has become a model for the country.
- We were one of the last states, unfortunately, to get state aid for libraries and it only lasted two years, but while it existed we were the only state that offered state aid to school, public and academic libraries.

I could go on and on but I won't.

The leadership to do these things came from the state library and from the library community and from our seven regional systems and our advisory boards who recommended how we spent our money.

Now for the challenges. Funding. Of course. But it's not so much the lack of funding as the impact of the funding cuts on individual libraries and the willingness of libraries to cooperate and share their resources. That's the real threat. We have to find ways to help libraries continue this cooperation or all of us and all residents of Colorado will suffer. And the final challenge is to make sure the public knows how much libraries contribute to education and information. Someone once said "Information is the currency of democracy." (I thought it was Thomas Jefferson but when I went to AskColorado at midnight, I found out it was someone else!)

Libraries, and the librarians who work there, are the best place to find information that supports our democratic society.

Now for some thank you's.

- I want to thank all of you in the library community for your trust and support and willingness to share your time, effort, and resources.
- I want to thank CDE and its Board. I've worked with 26 Board members, 3 commissioners and a host of interims and deputies, and CDE staff and I thank them for their support of libraries over the years.
- I particularly want to thank my staff. I have never worked with a greater bunch of people. I have been blessed with the most creative, challenging, intelligent, argumentative, innovative, talented, productive, and award-winning staff any state librarian could ever wish for.

On May 1st, Gene Hainer becomes your State Librarian. I'm sure he will do a great job and I know you will give him the same ideas, support, and honest opinions you have shared with me all these years.

Sooo, thank you for a great 18 years.

Nancy M. Bolt
Colorado State Librarian
April 29, 2005



Nancy Bolt celebrates her retirement with words of farewell from Gene Hainer.

Eugene Hainer has been appointed the new Director and deputy state librarian of the Colorado State Library (CSL), Colorado Department of Education (CDE), announced Commissioner of Education, William Moloney. Hainer has been head of Library Development for CSL since 2000, after working five years as the School Library Consultant for the same agency. He has also worked for the Poudre School District as a library media specialist, and served before that as a classroom teacher and music instructor. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder where he worked in the music library, and received his MLS from the University of Texas - Austin.

Commissioner Moloney welcomed Hainer to this cabinet-level position within the Colorado Department of Education. He commented, "Gene is a talented and dedicated librarian who will assist the State Library to continue growth in its service to Colorado's residents and librarians. His knowledge of Colorado's schools and libraries and their needs makes him an excellent choice as the new Director of the State Library." For more information, see <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/hainerpressrelease.htm>

Call for CAL '05 Conference Proposals – Rockin' with Colorado Libraries: Takin' Care of Business!

Do you have a workshop/program, preconference, or poster session you'd like to present? Visit the Colorado Association of Libraries website at www.cal-webs.org for more information and proposal forms – the deadline is May 25 for preconferences and workshops, and Sept. 1 for poster sessions. Conference is in Denver, Nov. 10-13, 2005, at the Marriott Tech Center. The conference is open to all types of libraries and staff – school, public, academic, special librarians, paraprofessionals, media specialists, trustees, administrators – all are welcome. The strength of the conference is YOU!

Community Relations Awards Noted

The following libraries and library staff have been recognized this year by the Colorado State Library for outstanding achievement in community relations and leadership, the foundation of all successful advocacy and marketing efforts.

Outstanding Achievement Award:

Denver Public Library, Read Aloud Program. Provides volunteer readers to Head Start and early childhood education centers. In existence for more than 16 years, the program enables volunteers to

give many hours of their time to reach out to at-risk children at 87 sites. The program brings a variety of picture books into the classroom along with booklists and other resources for the teachers, provides training and modeling, and encourages the kids to get library cards.

Pikes Peak Community College Libraries, "All Pikes Peak Reads" program in conjunction with the Pikes Peak Library District. The college's participation allowed them to reach beyond their campuses and into the community and involve students, faculty and staff. Activities included a kick-off event, film showings and book discussions at all three campuses.

Trailblazer Elementary School, Colorado Springs, school and community events. A student suggested that proceeds from the used book sale go to aid the Tsunami relief. The benefit, which was open to the public, was held after school as well as during school. Any remaining books were donated to a homeless shelter. Also for Family Time @the library which is a growing monthly event bringing the community and families together in the library for refreshments and reading.

Award of Merit:

Douglas County Libraries, Teen Battle of the Bands. Event helped change the stereotypes of libraries and teens. The program, which was attended by over 400 teens, offered a way to involve teens in a positive library experience and promote the library as having something for everyone.

Lamar Public Library, Staff Outreach to the Community. For consistent focus on community outreach, especially for Latino community. The staff's commitment to major outreach over the past three years has provided many services to make new arrivals feel welcome, including ESL, GED and citizenship programs.

Manitou Springs Public Library, Reading Friends Program. Volunteers pair with children to read and do activities together. The program connects the local elementary school and the community with visits to the public library. Increased reading scores have been noted for the 75 kids that have participated over the last six years with the help of 74 volunteers.

Pikes Peak Library District, Funky Fairytales Performing Troupe. Putting on an act for 15 years, the troupe consists of staff volunteers who donate many hours to perform at elementary schools and public libraries. Last year the staff reached over 7,000 students in this unusual promotion for library services.

Witt Elementary School Library, Westminster, Turn Off the TV and Read Week. Hosted for 15 years, the program includes a drop-everything-and-read time, activities every night, coupons for prizes, in-house commercials and a PTO book give-away and fair. It also reaches parents and gets them involved.

Honorable Mention:

Arapahoe Library District, Homebound Delivery. This outreach program includes a coordinator and 20 volunteers who deliver library materials to individuals and 12 senior living facilities.

Bemis Public Library (Littleton), READ posters for Library Week. Using library staff, city officials, and others, the posters were hung in the library, posted on the web site and garnered media coverage. The diverse subjects gave everyone someone to identify with.

Combined Community Library (Ordway), Director Dana Gibson. To build a new library facility, the director was instrumental in forming public interest groups, determining community needs, and planning opening events. The new building required no tax increase and is entirely debt free.

Douglas County Libraries, Summer Reading Program for Youth, Teen and Adults. A common theme helped to connect participants of all ages. Half-a-million in prizes were donated from local and national businesses. Overall, participation was up among all groups, with the greatest increases among teens and adults.

Douglas County Libraries, ACCESS quarterly publication. Produced by the library, the magazine is sent to over 80,000 homes and highlights events and library services. It also has an extended shelf-life with coupons and card applications in the magazine, so residents retain the publication.

Fleming Community Library, Fleming Community Library Association. These supporters sponsor special programs, fund-raisers and children's programming. They are involved in both the school and the library as well as being advocates in the community.

Loveland Public Library, Teen Reading Program. In cooperation with the Larimer Boys & Girls Club, the library helped kids, ages twelve to seventeen, to form a monthly reading and discussion group called Reading Raptors. The program has lead to additional library-related activities.

Montrose Regional Library District, Book Cart Drill Team. With over half of the staff involved, as well as volunteers, the drill team has been an ongoing effort and participated in community events, to an enthusiastic response.

Rocky Ford Library, Traveling Titles Program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, and operating since November 2003, volunteers deliver items to patrons unable to travel. The program boosts morale and circulation at the same time.

For further information, contact Bonnie McCune, Library Community Programs Consultant, Colorado State Library, 303.866.6891, mccune_b@cde.state.co.us

Awards for Lamar Public Library

Lamar Public Library has received four "People's Choice" awards from the local newspaper. It asks citizens to vote on the best businesses, etc. and the library won for Best Book Business, Best Computer Business, Best Place to Work, and Best Boss (Rebecca Atkinson). How's that for community support of a little library?

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Awards Minigrants to Libraries

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation offers minigrants of \$350 to school and Public Libraries for programs that encourage literacy and creativity in children. Programs relating to the work of Ezra Jack Keats are welcome, but not required. Before applying, first read the "Ideas for Minigrants" page. Deadline for submission of applications is September 15 of each year. Applications are only available online, and will not be mailed or emailed. For more information visit, <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/programs/minigrants.htm>

Target Local Giving Program

This effort promotes a love of reading and encourages children to read together with their families. Awards recognize programs that inspire young readers (birth through third grade); and programs that bring arts to schools or schoolchildren to the arts. Maximum Award: \$1,000-\$3,000. Eligibility: Based on quiz. Deadline: May 31, 2005 http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/local_giving.jhtml

Rural Development Grants May Help Selected Libraries

Rural Development Community Programs Grants through the U. S. Department of Agriculture may

go to help selected libraries. Community Programs provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes receive a higher percentage of grants. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. There are no deadlines for submitting pre-applications/applications. Funds are very limited and awarded on a priority point basis until funds are exhausted. For information, visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/brief_cp_grant.htm#App_Proc

For additional information, E-Mail: [B. McCune](mailto:B.McCune)

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[▲ Top of Page](#) [◀ State Library Home](#) [◀ CDE Home](#)  [State Home](#)

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