

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**Kathy Brock Enger**  
**Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN)**  
**March 18, 2023**

**A warm welcome** to Lynn Eaton, representing the Kitchigami Regional Library System (KRLS), replacing Reed Olson. Thank you for your service, Lynn, and thank you to Reed Olson, for his faithful service to Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) and service to libraries in the State of Minnesota.

**NLLN's 990** was completed and sent to the Internal Revenue Service in March.

**Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) renewed NLLN's office lease** in MacLean Hall, Room 265C for another fiscal year, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, at \$580/month and \$6,960/year. A special thank you to MSUM and a warm recognition of President Anne Blackhurst, for her interest in Northern Lights Library Network and her invitation to belong on campus, as she retires from her role as MSUM's President. She was in it for the long run and we are grateful.

**Minnesota Workers' Compensation Assigned Risk Plan (MWCARP)**, Superior Point Audit was completed electronically and submitted in March. Required by Minnesota Statute.

**The U.S. Dept. of Commerce U.S. Census Bureau 2022 Economic Census** was completed electronically and submitted in March. Required by law.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** funding was received by NLLN and dispersed to the four regional library systems for eBook and Audiobook support in three regional library systems and interlibrary loan support with bookmobile service to Campbell for Viking Library System (VLS). VLS Director, Erin Smith completed a detailed report for NLLN stating, "The VLS bookmobile stops at Campbell Tintah Public School twice a month during the school year. Nearly 800 items were checked-out from the Bookmobile at the stop in 2022, a 28% increase in circulation from 2021 to 2022. In 2022, \$3,665.39 of NLLN's \$5,600 contribution to VLS supported the Campbell Tintah Public School stop ... by paying a portion (\$1,934.61) of VLS's ILL staff salaries, funding support from NLLN helps Viking Library System both provide, innovate, and improve its ILL service to its member libraries, schools and area community colleges." For a full report from VLS, see Appendix A.

**Kitchigami Regional Library System (KRLS)** received \$5,000 from NLLN through ARPA funding for 93 audio and eAudio books. See Appendix B for a list of the titles purchased.

Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) and Northwest Regional Library System (NWRL) reported that the funding received purchased eBook and eAudiobooks from the Overdrive collection, where 'buckets' of titles were purchased and expended as patron requests were placed online.

**Support for Wheaton Community Library Hoopla subscription continues.** NLLN continues to support the purchase of Audio materials, including audiobooks, eBooks, movies, and other electronic resources for the Wheaton Community Library through a subscription with Hoopla. In 2020, 319 items circulated for a cost of \$629.77; in 2021, 377 items circulated for a cost of \$716.31; in 2022, 586 items circulated for a cost of \$1,194.29.

**Director of the Wadena County Historical Society (WCHS), Lina Belar,** is working collaboratively with the Wadena community and agencies in the region to attain the Historic Wesley Hospital building to become the *Wesley Heritage and Cultural Center*. In addition to housing and displaying artifacts from Wadena's history, the cultural center would be a place for local theatre groups, actors, productions, events, etc. In addition to preservation and cultural events, the organization has room to set aside space for holding and presenting the works of regional poets, whose work is often lost. NLLN is working with WCHS on a \$100,000 grant from Sourcewell to make the poetry space a reality. See Appendix C for a copy of the Executive Summary.

**The updated NLLN Legislative Directory is available online at:**  
<https://nlln.org/pdfs/Legislative-Directory-2023.pdf>

As the Minnesota Legislative Session continues, Capitol Hill Associates recommends contacting legislators the Week of March 20 to support the Education Omnibus Bill, which will contain library legislation as it goes forward through the House and Senate, and finally to the governor for signing. With information from the directory, librarians in our region can send an email or note to legislators, thanking them for supporting libraries in Minnesota. An increase in funding from the State of Minnesota is essential at this time, as we near 15 years without an increase. Thank you to Deb Keena for updating the directory.

**The seven multicounty, multitype systems (MCMT) are sharing resources.** As a result, every librarian in the state has an opportunity to learn about resources available to them through the MCMT systems. For instance, on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Prairielands Library System led a free yearly "First Friday in February" Zoom conference called *Coping with Complaints and Challenges* that was available to all librarians in the state through notification from their MCMTs. In this manner, while Prairielands paid for the event, every librarian had a chance to participate for free. Prairielands brought-in speakers from Grand Rapids, Michigan; Annapolis, Maryland; Fairfax, Virginia. Federal and state resources reached all Minnesota librarians at the local level.

**Early in the fall, NLLN's scholarship funds were expended.** A total of \$5,443.24 was expended, mostly for attendance at the MLA Fall Conference in Duluth. Sixteen scholarships were awarded for an average of \$344 per person.

**NLLN supported Moving Words** throughout 2022 and continues to support it in 2023. *Moving Words: Writers Across Minnesota* is a program of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library to "increase awareness of work written by Minnesota authors and [increase] access to award-winning writers by bringing Minnesota writers to communities across Minnesota. *Moving Words* brought Staci Drouillard and Chris Stark to the Moorhead Public Library; Sun Yung Shin,

Andrew DeYound, and Shannon Gibney to Park Rapids; and Michael Kleber Diggs and Peter Geye to the New York Mills Cultural Center.

The next “Better Together” workshop will be on June 13 at Lakes Country Service Cooperative from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. “Better Together” brings library colleagues to celebrate literature and libraries and to discuss ways we nurture literacy. See Appendix D for the schedule.

**Dr. Denise Lajimodiere will be discussing her books on a Zoom presentation for NLLN on May 5.** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/97673812138>

Meeting ID: 976 7381 2138 Join Denise Lajimodiere, citizen of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa Indians and her books include: *Josie Dances*, *Stringing Rosaries*, *His Feathers Were Chains*, *Dragonfly Dance*, *Thunderbird Poems*, *Bitter Tears*.

**Dr. Denise Lajimodiere has been nominated as the next North Dakota Poet Laureate.** On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16, Executive Director, Kathy Enger testified on Denise’s behalf before the Senate Education Committee at the North Dakota State Capitol in Bismarck. See Appendix E for the testimony.

**The Assistant Commissioner with the Office of Teaching and Learning at the Minnesota Department of Education, Bobbie Burnham, reached out to library leaders, seeking support** for a proposal from MDE submitted to the U.S. Treasury concerning a Capital Funds Project (CFP), with options for “multi-purpose community facility projects” that “support and promote education, work, and health services. [Funding] could be facilities like full-service community schools, libraries, community organizations or community colleges. The funds must be used for capital projects, and the completion date is December 31, 2026.

**Internet for All at Internetforall.gov** is an ongoing effort by the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development Office of Broadband Development to bring together national and state resources to bring the broadband access to rural areas of the state. There was a workshop for statewide leaders on January 25 that Executive Director, Kathy Enger, attended. The event was co-hosted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, Association of Minnesota Counties, League of Minnesota Cities, and the Minnesota Association of Townships. For more information, contact Hannah Buckland, Digital Equity Program Lead at [Hannah.buckland@state.mn.us](mailto:Hannah.buckland@state.mn.us) or 651-259-7267.

**Minnesota Senator Mary Kunesh** (39, DFL) met with the Multicounty, Multitype (MCMT) Directors on February 23 to discuss funding for school libraries. During the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Legislative Day on February 28, bills were introduced to support an increase in funding: SF1919 and HF1917 seek an increase of \$4M for Regional Public Library Systems; a \$700,000 increase in funding for the MultiCounty MultiType (MCMT) Regional Library Systems; and a one-time allocation for school media specialist support of \$1M. The bills will be folded into the Education Omnibus bill the week of March 20. See: <https://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/page/2023LegislativeSession> for more information.

**APPENDIX A**  
January 30, 2023

NLLN Report: 2022 Use of Funds

Dear Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) Governing Board,

Thank you for your continued support of Viking Library System's Interlibrary Loan service and Bookmobile service to Campbell Tintah Public Schools.

***Bookmobile Campbell Tintah Stop***

Campbell Tintah Public School continues to be a vibrant Bookmobile stop for Viking Library System. VLS Bookmobile Driver and Librarians have established a good connection with the School's teachers and administrative staff, resulting in a stop that is busy and efficient. We especially appreciate our longstanding collaboration with Lynette Schwagerl, 7-12 Language Arts Instructor and School Librarian.

The VLS Bookmobile stops at Campbell Tintah Public School twice a month during the school year. Nearly 800 items were checked-out from the Bookmobile at the stop in 2022, a 28% increase in circulation from 2021 to 2022. In 2022, \$3,665.39 of NLLN's \$5,600.00 contribution to VLS supported the Campbell Tintah Public School stop. The expenses covered by the contribution include a portion (based on percentage of total stops) of the Bookmobile Department's 2022 operating budgeted staff wages and benefits, collection purchases, communications costs, gasoline, public relations expenses and vehicle maintenance.

***Interlibrary Loan***

As the 6-county region's Interlibrary Loan service hub, Viking Library System connects its Bookmobile and member libraries to library resources available throughout Minnesota and beyond. By paying a portion (\$1,934.61) of VLS's ILL staff salaries, funding support from NLLN helps Viking Library System both provide, and innovate and improve its ILL service to its member libraries, schools and area community colleges.

In 2022, VLS ILL staff designed and piloted a more efficient method that better tracks ILL resources throughout the System, while also improving workflow for the ILL clients. The process received rave reviews and was ultimately implemented in all but one of VLS's member libraries.

NLLN's support of these services helps us meet our vision of "proving local access to the world."  
*Thank you!*

Sincerely,

Erin Smith, Director

**APPENDIX B**

Title	Author	Total Cost	Content Type
KITCHIGAMI REG. LIB. KRLS			
Die Trying	Child, Lee	\$47.50	Audiobooks
The Eye of the World	Jordan, Robert	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Ugly Love	Hoover, Colleen	\$59.99	Audiobooks
Greenlights	McConaughey, Matthew	\$33.25	Audiobooks
The Midnight Library	Haig, Matt	\$38.00	Audiobooks
Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone	Gabalton, Diana	\$109.00	Audiobooks
Crying in H Mart	Zauner, Michelle	\$33.25	Audiobooks
Cloud Cuckoo Land	Doerr, Anthony	\$79.99	Audiobooks
2 Sisters Detective Agency	Patterson, James; Fox, Candice	\$65.00	Audiobooks
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot	Kinney, Jeff	\$23.00	Audiobooks
The Lincoln Highway	Towles, Amor	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Gilded	Meyer, Marissa	\$69.99	Audiobooks
These Precious Days	Patchett, Ann	\$69.50	Audiobooks
A Perfect Plan	Deaver, Jeffery	\$8.75	Audiobooks
The Becoming	Roberts, Nora	\$69.99	Audiobooks
Wish, The	Sparks, Nicholas	\$65.00	Audiobooks
Better Off Dead	Child, Lee; Child, Andrew	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Invisible	Steel, Danielle	\$83.00	Audiobooks
Bewilderment	Powers, Richard	\$38.00	Audiobooks
The Sentence	Erdrich, Louise	\$69.50	Audiobooks
You'll Be the Death of Me	McManus, Karen M.	\$31.50	Audiobooks
Reckless Girls	Hawkins, Rachel	\$44.99	Audiobooks
Will	Smith, Will; Manson, Mark	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Criminal Mischief	Woods, Stuart	\$33.25	Audiobooks
Call Us What We Carry	Gorman, Amanda	\$14.00	Audiobooks
Rise	Vonn, Lindsey	\$69.50	Audiobooks
End of Days	Taylor, Brad	\$69.50	Audiobooks
The Last House on the Street	Chamberlain, Diane	\$54.99	Audiobooks
Northwind	Paulsen, Gary	\$39.99	Audiobooks

Enough Already	Bertinelli, Valerie	\$59.95	Audiobooks
Mermaid Confidential	Dorsey, Tim	\$69.50	Audiobooks
Vanderbilt	Cooper, Anderson; Howe, Katherine	\$69.50	Audiobooks
Hidden Valley Road	Kolker, Robert	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Death on the Nile	Christie, Agatha	\$61.77	Audiobooks
Beautiful World, Where Are You	Rooney, Sally	\$49.99	Audiobooks
Corruptible	Klaas, Brian	\$59.99	Audiobooks
Down the Hatch	Beaton, M. C.	\$47.95	Audiobooks
Find Me	Burke, Alafair	\$69.50	Audiobooks
The School for Good Mothers	Chan, Jessamine	\$79.99	Audiobooks
Beautiful Little Fools	Cantor, Jillian	\$69.50	Audiobooks
A Game of Fear	Todd, Charles	\$69.50	Audiobooks
The Other Family	Staub, Wendy Corsi	\$69.50	Audiobooks
A Flicker in the Dark	Willingham, Stacy	\$44.99	Audiobooks
The Christie Affair	Gramont, Nina de	\$54.99	Audiobooks
Dark Horse	Hurwitz, Gregg	\$54.99	Audiobooks
Finlay Donovan Knocks 'Em Dead	Cosimano, Elle	\$44.99	Audiobooks
Robert B. Parker's Bye Bye Baby	Atkins, Ace	\$28.50	Audiobooks
Recitatif	Morrison, Toni; Smith, Zadie	\$14.25	Audiobooks
The Power of Regret	Pink, Daniel H.	\$28.50	Audiobooks
The Maid	Prose, Nita	\$38.00	Audiobooks
Abandoned in Death	Robb, J. D.	\$59.99	Audiobooks
Black Cake	Wilkerson, Charmaine	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Devil House	Darnielle, John	\$54.99	Audiobooks
Something to Hide	George, Elizabeth	\$47.50	Audiobooks
I Must Betray You	Sepetys, Ruta	\$31.50	Audiobooks
Steal	Patterson, James; Roughan	\$65.00	Audiobooks
City of the Dead	Kellerman, Jonathan	\$47.50	Audiobooks
The Horsewoman	Patterson, James; Lupica, Mike	\$65.00	Audiobooks
Atlas of the Heart	Brown, Brené	\$42.75	Audiobooks
Gwendy's Final Task	King, Stephen; Chizmar, Richard	\$59.99	Audiobooks
Moon Witch, Spider King	James, Marlon	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Diablo Mesa	Preston, Douglas; Child,	\$65.00	Audiobooks

	Lincoln		
The ABCs of Black History	Cortez, Rio	\$31.95	Audiobooks
Nothing to Lose	Jance, J. A.	\$69.50	Audiobooks
The Paris Apartment	Foley, Lucy	\$69.50	Audiobooks
Caramel Pecan Roll Murder	Fluke, Joanne	\$70.00	Audiobooks
Someone Knows My Name	Hill, Lawrence	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Spy School Goes South	Gibbs, Stuart	\$59.99	Audiobooks
The Black Elfstone	Brooks, Terry	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Running Blind	Child, Lee	\$95.00	Audiobooks
A Time for Mercy	Grisham, John	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Rules of Prey	Sandford, John	\$109.00	Audiobooks
Graceling	Cashore, Kristin	\$52.00	Audiobooks
Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer	Grisham, John	\$19.00	Audiobooks
Sherlock Holmes and the Red Demon	Millett, Larry	\$47.95	Audiobooks
Putin's People	Belton, Catherine	\$69.99	Audiobooks
The Way of Integrity	Beck, Martha	\$38.00	Audiobooks
The Children's Blizzard	Benjamin, Melanie	\$47.50	Audiobooks
One Italian Summer	Serle, Rebecca	\$59.99	Audiobooks
The Lady's Mine	Rivers, Francine	\$109.00	Audiobooks
Hook, Line, and Sinker	Bailey, Tessa	\$69.50	Audiobooks
The Club	Lloyd, Ellery	\$69.50	Audiobooks
The Magnolia Palace	Davis, Fiona	\$42.75	Audiobooks
The Invisible Kingdom	O'Rourke, Meghan	\$38.00	Audiobooks
Heiresses	Thompson, Laura	\$59.99	Audiobooks
How to Be Perfect	Schur, Michael	\$59.99	Audiobooks
The Atlas Six	Blake, Olivie	\$69.99	Audiobooks
Groundskeeping	Cole, Lee	\$38.00	Audiobooks
Court	Wolff, Tracy	\$69.95	Audiobooks
Comedy Comedy Comedy Drama	Odenkirk, Bob	\$33.25	Audiobooks
The Bald Eagle	Davis, Jack E.	\$47.50	Audiobooks
Enough Already	Bertinelli, Valerie	\$32.71	Audiobooks

TOTAL: \$5,000

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## APPENDIX C

Executive Summary to accompany the Eligibility Review

## Poets! Voices! A Minnesota Pilot Plan

### Executive Summary 463 words

The Wesley is a large, well-maintained building of 38,000 square feet consisting of three floors and a basement. It is owned by Tri-County Hospital who is currently building a new campus a few miles away which will be called Astera Health. By the end of 2023, much of the Wesley Hospital Building will be empty.

For several years, the CEO of Tri-County and the director of the Wadena County Historical Society (WCHS) have been in discussion regarding the possible re-use of the Wesley. WCHS has also been in discussion with Northern Light Library Network (NLLN) about combining their respective programs of "Minnesota Voices" and "Poets across Minnesota" to benefit the Minnesota counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena. The public could benefit through creativity workshops, display opportunities, studio space and archival storage of the work of regional poets and authors. Areas to be re-vitalized might include portions of the 1st, 2nd, or third floors of the Wesley building.

Display opportunities for writers and poets could include examples such as spoken word, pop-up displays, open mic, and theatre performances. Educational opportunities could also include programs with visiting or virtual poets and writers to further develop the concepts of a "Museum without Walls".

The current layout of the Wesley is suitable for individual studio space or small classrooms. Potential participants could be prioritized based on willingness to volunteer to help with display opportunities and maintenance of the archives. The project could offer reduced rental costs to participants for performance and studio space as well as assist potential applicants with grant applications to cover costs of publishing. Rent would help to offset the cost of leasing space in the building until a more permanent arrangement is made with the current owner.

Although it is understood that poetry is currently taught in schools, a place in the community dedicated to the spoken word holds the promise for exciting people of all ages about the richness of language. Sponsoring poetry readings and public events will encourage the love of reading for the whole community.

Through this pioneering collaboration of Northern Lights Library Network and Wadena County Historical Society this project could also grow to include the entire state. Participants will be able to continue to live in their rural community while improving their connections with the world beyond their doors. DESCRIBE HOW THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, THINK I UNDERSTAND BUT NOT SURE.

Not only will this project provide help to individuals, it could revitalize the broader neighborhood and the region served by Sourcewell including low-income individuals and families, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and poets and authors of all ages.



Expenses would include wages, marketing, consultants, construction materials, facility costs, and construction tools. Supplies would include marketing tools, paper, file folders, binders, and boxes for archival storage.

## **APPENDIX D**

**Better Together  
June 13, 2023  
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Lakes Country Service Cooperative  
1001 East Mount Faith Avenue  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
And via Zoom

**8:30** Coffee and Caramel Rolls

**9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. We're Better Together Conversations**

**10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. OPEN**

**10:45 a.m. Conversation**

**11 a.m. – 12 Noon Grant Resources for Libraries**

Miranda Lape, Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC)

Gail Nordstrom, Viking Library System (VLS), Legacy Funding and School and Public Library Partnerships

Kirsten Gulbro, Access Philanthropy

**12 Noon Boxed Lunches and Continued Conversations**

**1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. MDE English Language Arts Academic Standards**

Leigh Nida, Supervisor

Academic Standards Team and (interim) English Language (ELA) Specialist

Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment Division

**1:45 p.m. Continued Conversation**

**2 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Native American Literature**

Dr. Caitlin Johnson, Citizen of Turtle Mountain and Assistant Professor at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM)

**2:45 p.m. Continued Conversation**

**3. p.m. Book Repair Techniques**

Lucy Anderson and Lisa Mattocks, Thorson Memorial Library, Elbow Lake  
Karen Breach, Wheaton School, CoverOne

Zoom Access: Kathy Enger is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: "Better Together"

Time: Jun 13, 2023 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/96728006813>

Meeting ID: 967 2800 6813

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,96728006813# US

+13092053325,,96728006813# US

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 967 2800 6813

Find your local number: <https://minnstate.zoom.us/u/a8RxW6RPM>

Join by SIP

96728006813@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)

213.244.140.110 (Germany)  
 103.122.166.55 (Australia Sydney)  
 103.122.167.55 (Australia Melbourne)  
 149.137.40.110 (Singapore)  
 64.211.144.160 (Brazil)  
 149.137.68.253 (Mexico)  
 69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto)  
 65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)  
 207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo)  
 149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)  
 Meeting ID: 967 2800 6813

*“Better Together” is sponsored Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN), Access Philanthropy, Campbell School, Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), Roseau School, Thorson Memorial Library in Elbow Lake, Viking Library System (VLS), Wheaton School, and with funding from the Minnesota Legislature*

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Testimony in Favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4002, designating Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere as the next Poet Laureate of North Dakota, from Kathy Brock Enger**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2023**

**Testimony begins at 11:41:01 here:**

**<https://video.ndlegis.gov/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20230119/-1/28532>**

Chairman Elkin, and Members of the North Dakota Senate Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Kathy Brock Enger. I am a colleague and friend of Dr. Denise Lajimodiere’s. Dr. Lajimodiere and I taught together at North Dakota State University from 2006 to 2011.

I humbly seek your support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4002, designating Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere, citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, as Poet Laureate of the State of North Dakota. It is my great honor to speak with you, today.

I’ve served the citizens of North Dakota for a total of 15 years, first at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine as a clinical librarian at the Southeast Clinical Campus at the Veterans Administration in Fargo and subsequently at North Dakota State University, first as Social Science Librarian, then as a doctoral advisor and professor in the School of Education.

Both North Dakota State University and The University of North Dakota hold a special place in my heart and Dr. Lajimodiere’s. We served as professors at North Dakota State University, and

we were also conferred our Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Education -- Educational Leadership -- from the University of North Dakota. I would like to publicly record my gratefulness to the Citizens of North Dakota, today, for employing Dr. Lajimodiere and me at North Dakota State University and for educating us at The University of North Dakota. A special note of gratitude to The University of North Dakota for the National Teacher Corp. program in Belcourt, North Dakota, which graduated American Indian teachers, starting in the 1970s. Dr. Lajimodiere's service to North Dakota began as an educator over 40 years ago. It is fitting that the state would honor her for her long-standing dedication to the State of North Dakota by naming her Poet Laureate of North Dakota.

Most recently, Dr. Lajimodiere has been interviewed by over 100 news organizations worldwide for her acclaimed book, *Stringing Roseries* (2019), which brings to light the atrocities experienced by a generation of Native American children attending boarding schools across the United States.

While Dr. Lajimodiere is a recognized scholar, poetry and art are critically represented through her many books of published poems.

A citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Denise Lajimodiere is first and foremost a poet. Her poems are beautifully written with compassion, insight, and a sorrow. Through her work, we come to understand the joy of loving relationships and the deep anguish experienced by beloved family members and friends growing up as Native Americans. Denise sensitively characterizes stories of the Anishinaabe people she loves. Her poetry opens one's heart to the timeless voices of art.

Her published poems are found in the following titles:

*Josie Dances a children's book published by the Minnesota Historical Society*

*His Feathers Were Chains*

*Dragonfly Dance*

*Thunderbird Poems*

*Bitter Tears*

As I read Denise's work, I am brought to tears; yet, experience joy at the same time. As I read, I see the steady light in Denise's eyes and hear her gentle laughter. I see a woman who loves this place and has found refuge at the center of the North American continent.

Denise Lajimodiere is a true artist. Exquisitely museum quality, Denise's birch bark biting art is practiced by few in North America. She reintroduced jingle dancing to Turtle Mountain and has won numerous prizes over her fifty-five years of Pow Wow dancing. The beadwork on her many jingle dresses is her own. I am encouraging Denise to donate her poetry, beadwork, dresses, and

birch bark biting to The North Dakota Museum of Art, which will be a true legacy to the State of North Dakota.

This moment is the time to designate Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere as Poet Laureate of North Dakota. It is time. The time is now. This is your legacy. This is your opportunity.

I humbly seek your support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4002, designating Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere, citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, as Poet Laureate of the State of North Dakota.

Thank you for your time, for your thoughtfulness, and for your service to the citizens of this Great State.