

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Northern Lights Library Network
Kathy Enger, Executive Director
December 9, 2023

Native American Literature: American Indian History and Culture For Both Students and Teachers

Northern Lights Library Network sponsored a collaboration between Dr. Caitlin Johnson from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and Gina Drellack from Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC) to produce a free self-paced course to assist educators and students in learning about Native American literature texts, including texts recommended by Indigenous teachers and organizations. The course teaches how to use the texts in the classroom; prepare texts for professional development; and recommends Indigenous texts for elementary, middle school, 9th grade, 10th grade, 11th grade, 12th grades. Each unit is about a minute and a half or more and the course is easy to complete. The CEU certificate at the end of the course is 1.5 clock hours. The course was designed to meet the upcoming “Minnesota teacher licensure renewal area of American Indian History and Culture: The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must adopt rules that require all licensed teachers renewing their license under sections 122A.181 to 122A.184 to include in the renewal requirements professional development in the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with particular emphasis on Minnesota Tribal Nations. (*MN Law, chapter 55, article 5, section 42, subd. 7*)” (<https://nwsc-learning.teachable.com/p/native-american-literature>). The licensure renewal standards for American Indian History and Culture are still under review by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and may become available January 2024 for use in 2025. Information on the course went to NLLN members and was sent to members of the multicounty, multitype library systems.

As of November 30, over 437 people from across Minnesota participated in the course. Access to the course was distributed to all multicounty, multitype library (MCMT) systems across the state. In this way, our goal of reaching every librarian is met. This is by far the most participation of any course offered by Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC). Thank you, Gina! Thank you, Dr. J.! The impact of the multicounty, multitype library systems is far reaching, showing the success of collaborating across systems. In this case, the MCMTs were brought together with Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC).

Libraries and Indigenous Nations: Celebrating Cultures, Empowering Communities, Honoring Traditions

Northern Lights Library Network was a sponsor of the Tri-College University Annual Staff Development Library Workshop at St. Paul’s Newman Center near North Dakota State University (NDSU) November 2, 2023. *Libraries and Indigenous Nations: Celebrating Cultures, Empowering Communities, Honoring Traditions*. The library directors from MSUM, NDSU, and Concordia invited NLLN members to participate. Attendees learned about how to catalog materials and metadata that represents Native American culture and how libraries can actively participate in representing, preserving, and accessing Native American cultural artifacts and literature accurately. Along with Tri-College attendees, librarians from the NLLN region

attended from Fergus Falls Public Library, the University of Minnesota Morris, Lake Agassiz Regional Library, and White Earth.

Destiny Workshop

On November 11, 2023, Glenn Heinecke presented a Destiny Workshop for school specialists in Room 205 of MSUM's Comstock Memorial Union. Library specialists from Ada Borup West, LaPorte School, Red Lake Falls School District, Menahga School, Mahnomen School District attended. Thank you to Glenn Heinecke for presenting the workshop and for representing Roseau School.

Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference

The 20th Annual Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference will be held August 14 and 15 at Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. NLLN is represented on the planning committee and will continue to support and to promote the conference.

“Better Together” June 10, 2024

Mark Mindt will be the keynote feature at the next “Better Together” workshop. Mindt writes and presents graphic novels based on Koda the Warrior and has presented his work widely at schools throughout the Dakotas and Minnesota. There will also be presentations on new children's books, MDE ELA standards, collection management/censoring, and break-out sessions on book repair, makerspaces, and story time. “Better Together” is designed to bring together librarians and educators from across the region to share ideas and support each other in their work.

Local Library Director Lunches

Laura Probst, Library Director at Concordia, Moorhead, brings area library directors together to talk about local library concerns. We met on September 14th and plan to continue meeting, regularly. Previously, library directors from the NLLN region were also invited, and the practice will continue.

Jill Kandel's Presentation and Books: *So Many Africas: Six Years in a Zambian Village* and *The Clean Daughter: A Cross-Continental Memoir*

On September 25th, Jill Kandel presented her books via Zoom to a small group. It was interesting that the people attending were mostly library patrons, not librarians. Librarians shared the Zoom link with their constituents.