Today in EYE-OPENER February 6, 2017

1) Lobby From Home Day February 15

2) STEM Scale-Up Program Applications

3) Digital Inclusion Survey Results

4) Nebraska Online Conference in February

5) Meetings / Events This Week

1) Lobby From Home Day February 15: **Next Wednesday February 15** is **ILA's Lobby From Home Day.** This is a perfect opportunity for public library trustees, Friends Group members, and advocates everywhere to contact local legislators. The message is this: remind them of how valuable Iowa libraries are in hundreds of communities across the state. And how critical state funding is to maintaining libraries as vital community resources.

Iowa is facing dramatic budget shortfalls this year and certain cuts to all state agencies, including the State Library. So your advocacy is especially needed this year. Here are some talking points for you to use on **Lobby From Home Day**:

- *More than 50,000 people visit Iowa libraries every day*

- *Every State Senator and State Representative has one or more libraries within their district—this is a chance to remind legislators how essential libraries and library services are to their communities and their constituents*

- *State funding reaches and benefits all Iowans through their school Libraries, public Libraries, academic Libraries and special libraries*

- *It's clear that Iowans depend on their libraries for Internet access, early literacy programming for young children, homework assistance, health care information , and especially now: resources for job searches, career development, and education*

- *To support these vital services, the Iowa Library Association asks the General Assembly to fully fund Enrich Iowa and retain their funding commitment for the State Library of Iowa.*

Find your legislators here: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find During the legislative session, Iowa state senators can be reached at Iowa Senate, Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa 50319—call 515-281-3371. Iowa state representatives can be reached at Iowa House of Representatives, Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa 50319—call 515- 281-3221.

Also mark your calendars for **Wednesday March 15**—that's **ILA Legislative Day**, the annual lobbying effort at the capitol building in Des Moines. That event begins with a legislative briefing mid-afternoon, followed by a legislative reception in the Law Library at the State Capitol beginning at 4:00 PM.

But for now, please help make **Lobby From Home Day 2017** on **February 15**
a successful and concerted effort—thank you!

2) STEM Scale-Up Program Applications: Maryann Mori, consultant with Central IA District office, has this news regarding **STEM** Programs. Iowa's educators and librarians who want to continue inspiring their students toward STEM passions have a perfect opportunity. The **STEM Scale-Up Program** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) is designed to *"inspire the next generation of innovators to meet the STEM workforce demand in Iowa."* Your library can be part of that aspiration by applying for the **Scale-Up Programs.**

According to Paul Gibbons, North Central Regional Manager with ISU, *"librarians are certainly eligible to apply and this is a statewide program."* He adds that programs of particular interest to libraries could be

- ✓ Engineering is Elementary
- ✓ Ramps and Pathways
- ✓ Making STEM Connections

GREATNESS STEMS FROM IOWANS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTH CENTRAL IOWA REGION
GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Contact the STEM Hub

Paul Gibbins
North Central Regional Manager

Iowa State University
1259 Stange Rd
Ames, Iowa 50011

2017-18 STEM Scale-Up Program Application Now Open!
#ScaleUpToSTEMUp

Iowa's educators who want to continue inspiring their students toward STEM passions now have an opportunity!

Today is the 2017-18 STEM Scale-Up Program menu debut. All nine selected programs underwent a competitive review process, proving an appeal to diverse youth, a demonstrated success in

A full list of **STEM Scale-Up Programs**, along with descriptions of each program, is available here: http://www.iowastem.gov/2017-18-Scale-Up

Who Can Apply: Any educator—including librarians—serving Iowa students Pre K-12th grade

When to Apply: By March 3, 2017—5:00PM deadline

Where to Apply: Online www.IowaSTEM.gov/2017-18-Scale-Up.

Questions: Contact Paul Gibbins: NC STEM Manager (pgibbins@iastate.edu / 515-294-0645)

3) Digital Inclusion Survey Results: Emily Bainter, State Library Communication Specialist, posted this summary of the recent **Digital Inclusion Survey** and asked me to re-print it for the *Eye-Opener*. Here's the scoop: Iowa was selected to take part in a program titled the **Library E-Rate and Planning Program** (LEAP) sponsored by the American Library Association. As part of that program, Iowa libraries were given a chance to participate in the Digital Inclusion Survey http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/ The results of the survey are now available and will allow libraries to compare their Internet speeds to similar libraries and advocate for greater speeds from service providers.

The survey asked if libraries participated in the E-Rate program and what their Internet broadband speeds were. Iowa had an excellent response rate, with nearly half of all Iowa public libraries responding. The 269 respondent libraries represented an accurate cross section of library types as well, with city, suburban, town, and rural libraries included in the results.

The survey data also allowed the creation of maps by the State Data Center to compare Internet speeds for libraries to get a better sense of the broadband landscape in their area. The maps, divided into the six Library Support Districts, show broadband speeds represented in different sizes and text colors. Libraries can use this information to advocate for greater speeds or better service from Internet providers in order to better meet community needs.

Emily has designed a wonderful infographic summary of the data, you'll find it posted on our website. Here are a few take-aways:

- 269 libraries participates (out of 544 public libraries total) a 49% response rate
- Library Types Response Breakdown: 7 cities / 12 suburban / 60 towns / 189 Rural
- 38 libraries out of 269 have Internet speeds of 25 mbps or greater (the Federal standard for broadband) That's 14%.

- 137 libraries out of 269 have Iinternet speeds of 9 mbps or greater. That's 51%.
- 100 libraries applied for the federal E-rate program for discounts on phone and internet service.

This survey is actually ongoing and remains open libraries that did not participate in the first round. If interested, contact your District Office staff to request survey instructions http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/contact-us/dist-offices

4) Nebraska Online Conference February: Last month, our State Library finished another ambitious online conference. Now this month, our neighbors to the west—Nebraska State Library—holds their annual online conference on **February 24.** Nebraska's online conference is called **"Big Talk From Small Libraries"** and their website actually credits Iowa with the idea *"…Big Talk From Small Libraries was inspired by Iowa's Innovative Libraries Online Conference; our event wouldn't exist without their advice and encouragement…"*

From their website: "…*Nebraska's **Big Talk From Small Libraries** event is aimed at small libraries—the smaller, the better! Each of our speakers is from a small library or directly works with small libraries. Topics range from technology (new and old tech) to programming to new service roles. Come for the programs on what you're dealing with now or learn something new to try. Everyone is welcome to register and attend…whether your library serves a few thousand or a few hundred, this is the day for you…*"

Big Talk From Small Libraries is broadcast online using the GoToWebinar software. GoToWebinar works on Windows, Mac, Google Chrome OS, Linux, iOS and Android devices. Login instructions will be emailed to registered attendees the day before the conference. Visit this website http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/ for more. Like Iowa's **ILOC** event, Nebraska does plan on recording all **Big Talk** sessions, with recordings posted to the website above. You do not need to register for the conference to access the recordings.

5) Meetings / Events This Week: I'm joining Merrill PL Board on Thursday evening with an overview of *Planning For Results*.

Note: District staff will be in **Des Moines on Wednesday this week** for our monthly staff meeting. While District Offices will be closed, the **Des Moines office** will be open if you need to call with questions—**800-248-4483**.

It's a new month of national webinar options. Find lots to choose from—with descriptions and registration info—on this webpage http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted

February 7. 1:00-2:00PM. *Full STEAM Ahead* sponsored by Booklist
https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars

February 7. 1:00-2:00PM. *Where Do I Go From Here? Engage Volunteers in New Ways* sponsored by VolunteerMatch http://learn.volunteermatch.org/training-topics

February 8. 12:00-1:00PM. *Using Facebook LIVE to Broadcast Impact* sponsored by 4Good
https://4good.org/explore/latest/webinars

February 9. 2:00-3:00PM. *Developmentally Appropriate Programming for Babies & Toddlers* sponsored by Infopeople https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar