



# DISTRICT NEWS

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



Southeast District - September 2021

## Around the District

### Notes from Becky

As we creep towards normalcy, it can mean changes to our daily work lives. I find myself spending more time on the road again, which means less time in the office. While I'm thrilled to be meeting some of you in person, I'm feeling guilty as I'm not able to return messages nearly as fast as I have in the last 18 months. I'm still getting my feet under me as I try to balance office time and road time. So, if I owe you a return call or message from the last week, please know that I will get back to you! But it might not be in as timely a fashion as I've done recently.

And, as a reminder, you can always check to see if I am in by using the chat feature on our website and as found in my signature. I will respond to chat, voice mail and email.

I'd also like to send a belated welcome to all our new directors in the Southeast District. This has been a BIG year for changes. Since January, we have 16 director positions that have opened, been filled or announced. And there are a few more to come. I hope you are finding your way through the Iowa library landscape. Welcome to the Southeast District! The State Library and I are here to help with that, as are other librarians.

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[Chat \(during business hours\)](#)



A SPECIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES  
[ala.org/LTCFocus](http://ala.org/LTCFocus)

### ALA Grant Opportunity

Applications for round three of the Libraries

Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small and Rural Libraries grant closes on September 16th. Up

to 100 libraries will be awarded in this round of grantmaking, part of ALA's longtime community engagement initiative. We encourage any small and/or rural libraries - **including prior LTC grant recipients** - to apply!

The LTC: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries grant was created to help library workers in small communities learn how to lead conversations. Library workers will complete a free ALA e-course on basic facilitation skills, host at least one conversation with community members on a chosen topic, and receive \$3,000 to support community engagement efforts. Grant funds may cover a range of expenses, including staff time and collections and technology purchases.

[Learn More Here](#)



The State Library is pleased to present [BrainFuse HelpNow](#) for all Iowa libraries. In order for this to get the most use possible, we would like to have ALL frontline staff trained in how to use this homework help product. If you are

staff that works directly with patrons, please take a look at all the opportunities to find out how this product works and how it can benefit your patrons. Directors, please let ALL staff know that we want them to be as familiar as possible with this great program, so they can promote it to your citizens.

HelpNow Training

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## Friday Open Forum

Don't forget our monthly opportunity for drop in Zoom chat! We meet the first Friday of every month from 10-11. Our next Open Forum is **tomorrow**. For all those new directors mentioned above, this is a great time for you to get to know your neighbor librarians. It's a place to share your concerns and talk about your successes -- a place to learn from each other. All in the convenience of a Zoom room.

Becky's Zoom Room

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## Launch of Outdoor Survey

Did you move your summer programs outdoors this year? Did you offer any self-directed programs that encouraged patrons to engage with nature? If so, we invite you to complete a short survey about this programming. Your responses will be used to demonstrate how libraries are continuing to innovate and serve their communities during the COVID pandemic. Results will be shared broadly within the library profession, and beyond.

Click the link below to learn more about the study and to give your consent to complete the survey.

Survey link: [https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aXiuwjsilSsu8HY](https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXiuwjsilSsu8HY)

Once you click on the link you will be taken to a consent form where you can choose whether or not to participate in the survey. The survey is anonymous and should take around 15-20 minutes of your time. If you choose to participate, you will be taken directly into the survey. If you have any questions about the study, please contact Katie Campana at [kcampan2@kent.edu](mailto:kcampan2@kent.edu) or Noah Lenstra at [njlenstr@uncg.edu](mailto:njlenstr@uncg.edu).

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