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Mid-Continent Public Library Garners 45K in Grant Funding

Missouri State Library Awards MCPL Four Grants for Literacy and Tech Initiatives

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce that it was recently awarded four grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (as administered by the Missouri State Library) to fund innovative literacy and technology initiatives.

“Connecting our customers to valuable resources that enrich their lives through learning is at the core of the Library’s mission and values,” said Rebecca Maddox, Development Specialist at MCPL. “This funding ensures that we are able to accomplish this mission and support the growth of our communities.”

The recently awarded grants include:

- **Racing to Read Grant—$6,684**
  - Supports the Teens, Tots, and Tales program, offered by MCPL in partnership with the Independence School District’s Early Education Center at Truman High School. The Library works with the teen parents to establish good family literacy practices by providing education through storytimes as well as supplies to grow families’ home libraries.

- **Technology Ladder Grant—$20,905**
  - This grant builds upon the 2017 Technology Ladder Grant MCPL received, which supported the purchase of equipment to improve the Library’s network and Wi-Fi systems in order to provide faster connections, greater user capacity, and better coverage for Library customers and staff. In addition to increasing internet speed, these new devices allowed for faster updates and an increased level of security by the Library’s IT team.

- **STEM Programs Grant—$8,429**
  - This grant supports the continuation of STEAM-Powered Programs with MCPL, an initiative centered on offering youth programs focused on the pillars of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. This project promotes digital literacy to underserved youth.

- **Spotlight on Literacy—$9,977**
  - This grant supports the Lone Jack Third Grade Reading Project, which aims to improve reading scores among students in third grade at Lone Jack Elementary School during the 2018-2019 academic year. As part of this, MCPL staff members visit the school to present information on award-winning books and hand out copies for students to take home and grow their home libraries.

“As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces
where people can connect with each other,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant making as they inform and inspire all in their communities.”

Learn more about all of the Library’s programs and initiatives at mymepl.org.

*These projects were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

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**Access Your World**

Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and three Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**About IMLS**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s approximately 120,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.