

**2011 Medal Winner Alachua County Library District**  
Speakers: Host, Shaney T. Livingston & Lenor Krome

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>> HOST: The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor for libraries and museums that are serving their communities in exciting ways.

Alachua County Library District Director, Shaney T. Livingston and community member Lenor Krome traveled to Washington to receive the national medal and spoke to IMLS about how the library impacts the community.

>> SHANEY T. LIVINGSTON: One thing that I'm very proud of is our tag line is thinking outside the book. By doing that, it has allowed us to engage with many agencies in the community.

One of the things that has really become somewhat of a national model for our library system is what we call The Library Partnership, a neighborhood Resource Center. We have 30 different agencies, social service type agencies that come through that organization.

A person can go to that particular location. They can receive library services as well but in addition they can go to the partnership side and they can receive many different types of social service agencies.

We also engage with the University of Florida and we have what's called the Mobile Outreach Clinic. It's a rehab bus and it goes to three of our locations. From that unit, patrons can actually go in and get medical assistance. Also when they are there, the parents can send their kids into the library so that if they need to do some things, the children go into the library. They are reading books, playing games or whatever. The parents can be engaged with the health outreach service during that.

We are very heavily into trying to recruit our teens in the community. We're into gaming, the Wii, things like that. We have

pajama parties for the teens on Friday so we're just looking at a lot of different things that really makes us not necessarily on the bleeding edge but on the cutting edge to really engage our community.

>> LENOR KROME: You have to realize Archer is a tiny town. It's rural. It does not have very much money. The people who live in the town don't have a very big income and so I noticed that a lot of people use the library especially for internet access, being able to get to a computer.

They started out with six computers and then its expanded to I don't know how many; 20 computers or so that are available for the patrons.

When I first moved to Archer, I was pregnant and Archer had a book mobile that I would be a patron of and then they built a new facility. It was wonderful. I would go with my kids and they would be teething on the board books or I'd be finding books to read to them.

Starting in third grade, my children had to start writing reports for their third grade teacher and it was with the library that I could go and say I need a book on amphibians. They're both in college now on the West Coast. Oh, they'll go in and use the computer because I don't have a computer at home or very often they'll go hey I need to read some Hemingway and they'll go in and say I've been assigned Hemingway and they'll get a book they've been assigned so it's always been a great resource for us.

>> SHANEY T. LIVINGSTON: And its little simple things. I mean even with our local Sheriff's Department, they do their patrolling at night and we were asked by the sheriff there, would it be okay if the deputies park in our parking lot at night to be able to have access to the computer. Great. Why not. It provides security for us as well when we're closed so it's just those little things. Any opportunity that you find is a partnership I say go for it. It's just a win/win for everybody involved.