

2012 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE

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>> MALE SPEAKER: The Institute of Museum and Library Services honors ten of the nation's museums and libraries for their extraordinary contributions to the communities they serve.

IMLS is the nation's primary source of federal support for museums and libraries. We congratulate the winners of the 2012 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

The Bootheel Youth Museum in Malden, Missouri has only three full-time staff and three part-time staff members, yet it entertains, educates, and inspires insatiable curiosity to 30,000 visitors each year.

This vibrant children's science museum combines science exploration with a thirst for adventure through innovative exhibits like the BYM children's Village, This Island Mars, a space adventure, and making tracks on the Lewis and Clark Trail.

California's Contra Costa County library is reshaping how residents access library services on the go. Snap and Go, a smart phone application using a quick response code, enables the library's card-carrying commuters to carry the library with them. People can access e-books, the catalog, and other features when and where they want them, not just when libraries are open.

A new program called Discover and Go offers library users and underserved populations with around-the-clock access to downloadable free passes to a wide range of cultural institutions such as museums and galleries throughout the Bay Area.

Cumberland County Public Library in North Carolina is a safety net to a community distressed by economic downturn. At the heart of workforce development, the library offers job skills training, entrepreneurial opportunities, and one-on-one assistance and biannual job fairs.

Vital to every facet of life, children engage in experiments in robotics that stimulate learning in science, technology, engineering, and math.

With Fort Bragg nearby, the library also lends support to military families in transition from active duty to retirement. The library's award-winning programs foster literacy, celebrate arts, culture, and North Carolina's rich history.

The Garfield Park Conservatory is a source of real pride to a neighborhood that had been in decline. The conservatory works with residents to transform vacant lots into vibrant gardens.

The staff instructs elementary school teachers on how to use the conservatory's resources in their classrooms and children visit self-guided stations with activities ranging from planting to crafts.

High school students have the opportunity to be trained in environmental and arts-based instruction, helping them prepare for college and the workforce.

The Long Island Children's Museum delights more than 250,000 visitors annually with its hands-on exhibits and local educational outreach programs, meeting the needs of a diverse community.

The Museum provides kindergarten readiness programs to Spanish and Haitian Creole speaking immigrant families. School programs share the museum's resources with teachers to help engage their students in scientific inquiry.

The museum also supports families in crisis through strategies encouraging healthy parent and child interactions and the museum staff empowers teens to teach sustainability to visitors and the museum's popular outdoor exhibit called Our Backyard.

The Museum of contemporary Art North Miami serves one of America's most diverse areas. The museum provides educational programming that aims to improve literacy and keep students in school, all in an effort to encourage students to take pride in their community through art expression.

The program staff also works to empower women and ease feelings of isolation through the universal language of art. Women on the Rise is an acclaimed outreach program training

local female artists how to work with children in juvenile detention centers about expressing themselves through art.

Naturita Community Library serves the 546 citizens of Naturita, Colorado, an isolated uranium mining community which has experienced significant economic booms and busts.

The library is a central hub for the town and offers programs that focus on early literacy and parenting, continuing education, computer skills and workforce development.

It is the nation's largest straw bale library and utility savings from the eco-friendly construction are used to promote lifelong learning and access to the world beyond.

In Seattle, Washington, Pacific Science Center seeks to go beyond just teaching visitors about science. It's Portal to the Public program connects the public with cutting-edge science by training scientists to demonstrate and explain the research.

Discovery Corps get students excited about the world around them and teaches them valuable job and life skills. And Professor Wellbody's Academy of Health and Science emphasizes not only an accumulation of health facts but it also explores the impact of personal choices in building healthier lives.

In Loudon County, Virginia, Parkview High School Library Media Center caters to a diverse student population where 74% of the students are minorities and more than half of the student body qualifies for free or reduced lunch.

The library creates a welcoming and lively environment, acting as a crossroads of academic and social interaction for the entire school community. The library teaches interactive digital research and reading skills to prepare students for success in the twenty-first century.

The school library media center offers extended hours before and after school, a concert series, and intergenerational reading opportunities through its teens to preschoolers story hours.

Shaler North Hills Library in Glenshaw, Pennsylvania boasts a bustling environment where families battle over book trivia, teens enjoy all day reading marathons, and adults explore their creativity through art and music.

Inspired by their tagline, "books and so much more," this family place library has created extensive outreach to schools and community sites. They celebrate reading and engage the community in a holistic, all-encompassing approach to library service.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is proud to honor the outstanding winners of the 2012 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

This presentation was created for the Institute of Museum and Library Services by History.