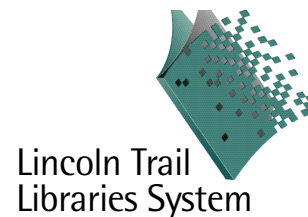


NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



January 18, 2006

CONTACT: Karen Wilkinson (Ext. 215)

Diversity Consultant Joins Lincoln Trail Libraries System Staff

Amani Ayad has joined the staff of Lincoln Trail Libraries System (LTLS), Champaign, as Diversity Consultant with responsibility for a grant project entitled "Diversity and Cultural Competency in Rural Libraries: A Multi-System Initiative." Ayad will build on Lincoln Trail's project from fiscal year 2005 that designed and initiated a model for positioning rural library staff to meet the needs of increasingly diverse populations in rural East Central Illinois.

The current project will extend the initiatives into the territory of three other library systems--Lewis and Clark Library System, Rolling Prairie Library System, and Shawnee Library System, headquartered in Edwardsville, Decatur, and Carterville respectively. Goals of the project include providing library staff and community leaders greater awareness and understanding of diversity through a range of programs and developing an extensive network of rural libraries and non-library agencies in order to sustain efforts to understand and meet the needs of diverse populations in the future.

Funding for the project was awarded by Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian, under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program.

Ayad earned a bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Cairo and a master's degree in training and development from the Human Resource Education Department at the College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was the career educator at the Urbana Adult Education Center before joining the LTLS staff. Contact her at Lincoln Trail Libraries System at 217-352-0047, Ext. 228, or e-mail aayad@lincolntrail.info.

Founded in 1966, Lincoln Trail Libraries System has headquarters in Champaign and is one of 9 multi-type library systems in the State of Illinois. The System serves 7 academic, 53 public, 45 school, and 17 special libraries in Champaign, Clark, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. Lincoln Trail advocates, collaborates, and facilitates education and cooperation to empower information agencies to improve and expand access to and delivery of information resources.

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