



Diversity Workshops

The following diversity workshops will be presented by Lincoln Trail Libraries System in February, March, and April 2005. All workshops are offered free as part of an LSTA grant from the Illinois State Library/Secretary of State. Registration for the February 5 and March 5 workshops: CLASS subscribers may register at: <http://dot.lincolntail.info:591/onlinereg/onlinereg.htm>. Others may register at <http://www.lincolntail.info/ce.html>. More details and registration information for the other events will be available soon.

CREATING AND MAINTAINING AN INCLUSIVE LIBRARY: Diversity and Cultural Competency in Local Libraries

Saturday, February 5, 2005, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mattoon Public Library

Saturday, March 5, 2005, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Hoopeston Public Library

Lincoln Trail Libraries System welcomes you to attend a one-day workshop on diversity issues in a local library context. As all Illinois communities continue to change and grow, libraries must adapt to changing community needs and work across barriers of language and culture. This interactive workshop will help participants to become comfortable dealing with people of a different culture, ethnicity, language, or country of origin than themselves. The benefits of inclusion and mutual understanding among diverse cultures will be discussed and evaluated, as well as strategies for achieving these goals. Prejudice, stereotyping, conflict resolution, cultural sensitivity and other topics will be dealt with in an environment that is serious but not boring, fun but not flippant.

Librarians, library staff, library directors, boards of trustees, municipal and school officials, and interested community members are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be led by Training Consultants Lenita Epinger (Parkland College Business Development Center) and Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey (University of Illinois Office of Academic Human Resources). Ms. Epinger and Ms. O'Shaughnessey have been successfully conducting these workshops together in a variety of settings throughout Central Illinois for the last 15 years.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be included.

PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED in order to attend the two-day DIVERSITY FORUM and retreat April 21-22, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Urbana, where a cooperative approach to dealing with diversity in rural libraries will be discussed. (See "Diversity Forum" at right.)

"I AM AN AMERICAN": Immigrants to the United States Speak About Their Experiences

Thursday, February 17, 2005, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Effingham

Thursday, March 3, 2005, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Onarga

Thursday, March 24, 2005, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rantoul

A panel of speakers who have immigrated to East Central Illinois from all over the world will speak about the conditions in their home countries that led them to immigrate, what they went through to get to the United States, and what they experienced after they arrived. Providers of services to immigrants will also be on the panel. Presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session. All are encouraged to attend.

DIVERSITY FORUM: Developing a Cooperative Vision for Services to Diverse Populations

Thursday and Friday, April 21-22, 2005

Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Urbana

This free two-day forum for library directors, librarians, and department heads will focus on developing cooperative, programmatic ways to enhance services to diverse populations. Over \$20,000 in grant money will be allocated to various projects determined by the forum. Participants will discuss issues and problems in their own communities, hear presentations and proposals from invited speakers, meet with representatives of the local Latino and other communities, and collaborate on a plan of action for addressing diversity issues in the rural libraries of the region. Providers of services to diverse populations (immigrant and refugee assistance centers, etc.) will also contribute to the forum. Room and board will be provided to all participants.

REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at either the February 5 or March 5 workshop is required for participation in the Diversity Forum. (See "Creating and Maintaining an Inclusive Library" at left.)