

Professional Engagement

Report on work of the Continuing Education Committee of the Minnesota State Library Advisory Council

Presented by **Gay Galles**

The committee met for a second face-to-face meeting on June 24, 2009.

In response to the work done at the 2007 Summit this committee is charged with identifying a format for coordinating and communicating the continuing education opportunities offered by a variety of providers in Minnesota.

Main work of the day was for sub-groups to come together to move forward in identifying continuing education providers in the state, to determine needs for training and to do a gap analysis to identify opportunities for training.

Rebecca Patton, who had worked extensively in the state on a library staff certification program detailed the change in focus of LSTA funds which have been used in the past for training activities. Changes in requirement make it more difficult to use these funds for training.

MaryAnn VanCura, committee chair, brought forward information related to Broadband Communications program funding provided by ARRA 2009. Details are expected to be released soon. Minnesota is expected to have over \$5 million allocated. Possibilities for tapping these funds for training were discussed.

Committee will conduct surveys in next 90 days and continue to meet to identify training needs and opportunities in the state.

Following the meeting a useful WebJunction document detailing competencies for library workers was shared with the committee. Page is located at <http://www.webjunction.org/competencies>.

The second school representative on this committee has withdrawn from the committee since she will have a different teaching assignment next year due to position cuts in her district. In addition, the provider representative from St. Cloud State University has withdrawn from the committee. I remain on the committee as the main representative of school library media centers.