



1. High Plains Library District | Kelli Johnson

The High Plains Library District (HPLD) has been offering Citizenship classes since 2010 to prepare candidates for their naturalization test. Since 2010 HPLD has helped more than 150 students. In addition to the classes, HPLD, in partnership with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the City of Greeley Museums, hosts a Naturalization Ceremony for candidates for U.S. citizenship. Each year candidates take their Oath of Allegiance, swearing to serve, honor and protect the United States of America before a Judge. These 30 individuals representing 15 different countries took the Oath of Allegiance and officially become U.S. citizens on July 1, 2016. Through our classes we are able to serve the needs of our diverse community. Our libraries are playing a small role in the lives of new immigrants, refugees and newcomers to the United States. We are helping individuals strive to be their best selves, to succeed, pursue their dreams and often overcome extreme obstacles. It is a privilege to work with these individuals.

2. Red Feather Lakes Community Library | Creed Kidd, Library Director

A survey we conducted two of three years ago asked how library services -- books, building and staff had involved users. The written comment of a near 90-year-old woman was "They make me feel like a real person".

3. Loveland Public Library | Amber Holmes, Manager of Teen Services

Our teen services department started outreach to Platte Valley Youth Services Center in January 2016. We reached out to CDE's Youth Institutional Libraries Consultant who connected us to the detention center's librarian who was eager to have us become involved with her library. Initially our outreach included monthly visits where one of our teen librarians would hang out with both the female and male pods during their designated library time doing reader advisory, distributing our library's discards, talking about library services, and getting to know the teens and their stories. After success with these outreach visits, the librarian asked that we collaborate and plan a Summer Reading Program for the committed teens (long-term sentenced teens). We went with the same theme as our library, Get in the Game! We designed decorations for the library and customized individual reading logs. The teens helped create the goals for the program which included reading five books in order to earn a hamburger from their favorite local burger drive-in. They were given journals to write summaries about each book which were signed off by the librarian. Additionally, we, with help from the teens, created missions that went along with our healthy and active theme. Participants could choose to complete these missions which would replace a book read. The missions challenged teens to accomplish the following missions daily for five days: running a mile, completing fifty burpees, drinking eight glasses of water, meditating, coloring, and/or journaling. For each registered teen, we gave each of the participants their own personal copy of the book, *Night Speed* by Chris Howard. On July 7th, we will be helping host their Summer Reading Program celebration at their facility which includes all hamburgers earned, root beer, chips, a smoothie bike, and an author visit from Chris Howard. Overall, we have had thirty-four teens register with twenty four hamburgers earned! The program was a huge success and as the facility's librarian stated, "...this one will go down in history!"

4. Arapahoe Library District | Janet Drake, Assistant to the Director Of Library Operations, Arapahoe Libraries

Children/families: *Child and Family Library Services*

Our featured annual literacy speaker was Rae Pica, who comes from a background in movement education and is the author of numerous books. Her presentation, *Jump into Literacy*, was a perfect fit for ALD's early literacy efforts. We enjoyed the cooperative efforts of fellow libraries, including Douglas, Jeffco and Denver, who invited their staff to a morning training attended by 85 people left breathless by the exercises Rae led! The evening session was open to the public and 90 attendees enjoyed coffee, dessert, the opportunity to purchase Rae's books from Tattered Cover and also to hear Rae's message. Some of the ways we reached attendees included the CLEL (Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy) Conference, word of mouth through school principals who encouraged their teachers to attend and through the Arapahoe Council for Early Childhood Education. A few patron comments say it all:

- *This was great!! It would be great to do more ECE classes – thank you! (ECE is early childhood education.)*
- *Wonderful to brainstorm ideas for education & find like-minded individuals. Thank you!!*
- *Thank you for having Rae Pica into your library – very important message!*
- *Really informative presentation. Loved how she gave some tips in the presentation. Very convenient time & location. Thank you!*

After the Rae Pica program, one mom commented, "I never knew about the importance of being able to cross the midline. My child has developmental disabilities and has been working with therapists and specialists, and no one has told me about this. I feel like this could be the missing piece in helping him make progress!"

5. Sharing Our Success

ALD's Reading Readiness Outreach program visits select preschools in Arapahoe County who serve high-needs children. More than offering a storytime to the children, the ALD Child & Family Library Services (CFLS) staff supplements the visit with training tips to the teachers to incorporate literacy-based elements when they are reading to children. They leave teachers with a bag of materials, resources, and website links every month and even sign up teachers for library cards! Additionally, CFLS staff has been able to offer our Book Bag Program at these preschools. A bag contains five preschool books and can be checked out directly from the preschool for busy parents. Staff also offers a handout to parents with literacy tips and resources, and when possible, they attend preschool parent events in order to promote library services, programs and library cards.

At the ABOS conference in Chicago this past October, the CFLS Preschool Outreach Librarian and supervisor presented on the ALD Reading Readiness Outreach (RRO) Program, and discovered that sharing that experience has made a difference! One staffer reports that she has been having follow-up conversations with two conference participants who are starting different elements of RRO in their library districts. Lori from Salina Library District, Kansas is working with her team to include an element of teacher training in the high need preschools they are already visiting as well as leaving information about their libraries at these preschools for parents. Abby from Reading is Fundamental in Pittsburgh is working with her mobile library team, (four vans) who visit preschools in high need areas. They are going to begin including a book bag project at these sites in order to get books into the homes of children in their library district. It is exciting that Arapahoe Libraries is having an impact in our community as well as other communities nationally who have patrons with similar needs.

6. Citizenship/refugees, Mobile Library Services

In September at our Fox Crossing bookmobile stop, we were thrilled to have a performer join us to present a Drums and Rhythms of the Middle East program. Many of our patrons at Fox Crossing are from the Middle East and were very excited to participate. As soon as they saw the performer pull out her drums, they exclaimed "those kinds of drums are everywhere in Libya!" As the drums started, more children and families stopped by to join the fun. It turned into a truly international and multi-cultural event as the program attendees included participants who were born in Colorado, Bangladesh, Liberia, Mexico, and Libya. It was perfect September weather to host this program outdoors and everyone in attendance had the chance to play various types of percussion, including staff. It's always fun to have the opportunity to provide an enriching and memorable experience for our patrons outside of the usual routine of bookmobile service.

7. Arapahoe County Detention Facility

The ACDF Jail Supervisor reports: I was recently stopped by a court services deputy in the hall who wanted to compliment our library team for our work with a particular inmate. The deputy had just returned from court with the inmate and shared with me his experience. The man appeared before the judge and admitted he had a drug problem and was requesting help. This man described how he had read a book (probably only the third book he'd read his whole life) just that week about a football player whose career and life were nearly destroyed by a heroin addiction. I had given this book to the inmate at book cart just four days earlier. He had approached me and asked for any book by John Grisham. I was unable to find any Grisham books on the cart and instead offered him this particular biography. Little did I know how this story would mirror this man's actual real life story. The man told the judge the book made him realize that he needed more than methadone—he needed treatment and help. The judge hugged the man and I later learned his sentence included inpatient drug treatment. At the next book cart, I spoke with the man about the book and the experience. He went on to tell me how he shared the book with another man who read it in only two days. A pretty powerful experience!

8. Services to Seniors | **Deborah Gonzales, Senior Services Librarian, Arapahoe Library District**

I have the opportunity to provide programming in memory care units. This is a very interesting process because the majority of my audiences are time travelers and they drift in and out, which is the norm for working with people whose memory is affected. Thus, I am learning to work for moments where we are all briefly present, and it's turning out to be quite addictive. This past month I presented a program on love, in honor of Valentine's Day. I

read a few poems about love and then we looked at ephemera dealing with courting and romance. There was a handkerchief scented with Chanel No. 5, and several ladies smiled, exclaiming that the smell reminded them of their mother. Another dear lady clutched a dance card and told us about her prom night where her dance card had been completely filled! So as I plan for next month, I'm on the lookout for treasures that will bring us a few moments where we can all be present together.

9. Arapahoe Library District | Community partnership/technology, Kirsten Canfield, Multimedia Librarian

This month I conducted an outreach presentation about ALD's media conversion tools and the preservation of digital files for the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society. I'd been building a relationship with the Society president for quite some time now, as he has been utilizing my help in digitizing the Society's 1970s oral histories, so he was happy to offer me this platform. The audience was surprised and delighted that we offer free self-service media conversion tools and was interested, engaged, and asked great questions about scanning at different DPI, identifying and dating old photographs (I promoted our book "Photographs of the Past: Process and Preservation"), and even scanning magic lantern slides (the man who inquired was excited at my enthusiasm for helping him with this uncommon format). In a follow-up email, [he] wrote, "On behalf of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, I thank you very much for coming to speak to us at our meeting on Sunday April 24, 2016. We were all interested in what you had to say, and your presentation generated many questions and a good discussion. I would like it very much if you send me information on upcoming events at your library (and particularly items on converting old media to new media)."

10. Park County Public Library | Pat Sohmer, Manager

Park County Public Library with four Library Branches: Fairplay, Bailey, Guffey, and Lake George have been part of many success stories over this past year. The highest impact as far as life-changing has been from participation in our online brain exercises that draw participants from across settings and generations. The very first month of our mini-pilot a boy with special needs transitioning from Middle School to High School faithfully participated and after just that first month he demonstrated a 3 month gain in reading level. Then after 4 months, he showed an 8-month gain. So instead of Summer Slide he made gains. This Spring a second-grader who participated for 3 months showed a gain of 2 years, 5 months in her reading level. Across that entire second grade classroom, participating through the library but working at school, the average gain in 3 months was a 7-month gain. This summer over 60 students are participating through the guidance of the Boys & Girls Club that we partner with. There are public school and home school students participating along with adults. Elevating literacy and cognitive skills in our communities is a huge success!

11. Estes Park LD – offered grants to several libraries in the state to initiate a program for financial literacy training and community involvement, under the name Common Cents. [More here.](#)

12. High Plains LD – Created a one-day ComicCon, called ReadCon, for the Greeley community. It is to encourage reading, literacy, and family involvement. [More here.](#)

13. Longmont Public – Initiated an expansion of Services for Children and Teens in the Autism Spectrum by forming a partnership (through an LSTA grant), which led to development of BiBLI, a robot built in partnership with several areas businesses to help those on the spectrum with social skills and engage in the library. [More here.](#)

14. Many libraries – providing STEM programming and support to encourage youth participation, and link into school standards for science instruction. This includes homework help in some libraries after school, and various tools and resources to encourage STEM learning for underserved kids in areas like programming, video game development, and other related activities. [More examples here.](#)

15. Many libraries – providing maker space activities and tools to foster family learning and help underserved kids learn programming and other skills. Some libraries include recording studios that kids can use to create music. Denver Public has released a vinyl recording of music from local bands, some of which used the recording space to make their songs. [More examples here.](#)