# Youth Service News



January 2014 Volume 3, Issue 3

# Focus: STEM in Action: Sara Volz

This feature, to run through 2014, will highlight an interview with a STEM professional living in Colorado.

Sara Volz, 18, of Colorado Springs, won first prize and \$100,000 in the Intel Science Talent Search in 2013 for her research of algae biofuels. According to the Intel Foundation, Volz "used artificial selection to establish populations of algae cells with high oil content, which are essential for an economically feasible biofuel. Sara, who built a home lab under her loft bed, sleeps on the same light cycle as her algae." This budding scientist has been recognized by The Denver Post as CO's top thinker of 2013 in science, and has been featured in Huffington Post, MIT News, and featured on CBS News and by President Obama at the White House Science Fair, and more. Now a multitalented student at MIT, Sara graciously answered some questions on STEM, youth, and libraries.

**Youth Services News:** Tell us a little about yourself. What do you do?

Sara Volz: Right now, I'm a freshman at MIT -- my majors are chemistry and biology but I'm thinking I may also pursue a minor in physics. I'm in an a cappella group, and have been doing some acting --- right now I'm rehearsing for "Sweeney Todd." It's great to be able to have these other activities as well as the wonderful courses at MIT.

**YSN:** Why is STEM important? Why should it matter to kids and teens?

Volz: These disciplines are critical for our future---for figuring out solutions to today's and tomorrow's problems whether it's how we will power cars into the next generation, stop global warming or understand the origins of our universe. Students can get involved in exciting areas of inquiry and be a part of the next discoveries.

**YSN:** How can we get kids more interested/involved in STEM?

**Volz:** So often it seems kids think science is about memorizing things out of textbook but in reality inquiry is probably what they are already doing everyday -investigating what is around them, asking questions and seeking to understand more. Students need more hands-on science experiences, tools and support available to them so they can experience the excitement of questions and discovery themselves. They need scientific mentors and opportunities so they can realize what is possible and that they can do valuable research even from a young age. Personally, I think more kids should do science fair --- learn the scientific process by working through an issue they care about and have developed themselves.

See Volz, p. 7

# Welcome to the Youth Services News!

This newsletter will feature articles on learning development, summer reading updates, timely tidbits, children's and teen literature news, and an exchange of what's happening in CO libraries.

Would you like to see a topic covered in the newsletter? Want to share info about your programs? Or perhaps contribute an article? Let me know!

## Inside this issue:

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# SRP 2014: News & Ideas

#### Meet the Artists

This little feature will highlight each of the 3 artists that created this year's summer reading artwork.

## Artist for the Adult Artwork: Larry Jones

For over 25 years, Larry has had the privilege and joy of creating art in a wide range of styles for a



diverse array of clients including such names as Target, Random House, Forbes, Harcourt Brace, AMF Bowling, Macworld, National Geographic World, Scholastic, Time Warner Cable... to name a few. Both

versatile and creative, he's always ready to give each project his best. Larry currently resides in Baltimore with his wife, three boys, three cats, and a hamster. See many of Jones's illustrations at his website.

In an interview from 2012, in response to a question about his favorite illustration styles, Jones revealed something of his preferences that shows through in his SRP artwork: "I'm probably most comfortable doing the kid stuff as my tendency is to create happy, fun images. Even when I do more adultoriented, serious illustration, there's usually some childlike playfulness that wants to come out. I do enjoy the challenge of styles that are a bit out of my comfort zone though—that's where the surprises pop up. It's also where many of my new directions begin." Read the whole interview here.



# Why's and How's of Effective SRPs

School Library Journal offers this article on the positive impact that effective SRPs can have, and how to make them more effective. It covers topics including incentives, partnerships, working with school libraries, collaborating with free summer meal programs, and actively engaging kids in reading.

## Summer Reading and Summer Slide Infographics

Looking for some powerful visuals to convey the negative impact of summer slide, and the positive impact of summer reading? Check out these infographics:

- The Achievement Gap, National Summer Learning Association (recently updated!)
- How to Help Your Kids Skip the Summer Slide, **Target**
- Kids Who Read Beat Summer Slide, First Book
- Is Your Child at Risk for Summer Slide?, Education.com
- Summer Learning Loss Increases the Achievement Gap, Partner for Children

#### Archived Webinars from CSLP

Patti Sinclair, the editor of the summer reading manuals from CSLP (Collaborative Summer Library Program), recently offered webinars on the 2014 Summer Reading Program and manual that are <u>now</u> archived; there's one each on the children's and teen programs.

#### YALSA's 100 Days to Summer Countdown

YALSA will be counting down to the first day of summer through online discussion forum activities to help libraries gear up for their summer reading and learning programs. The discussion forums will be hosted online through YALSA's official Summer Reading & Learning website, with a new forum every 25 days till the official day of summer – June 21. The discussion activities will be a daylong activity; participants can log on any time during that day and take part in the discussion topic. Mark your calendar for the next discussions:

- April 8 Effective school outreach
- May 2 Building summer learning into existing reading programs
- May 27 Tips for marketing to teens

## **Connected Learning and Summer Programs**

This new report from the MacArthur Foundation and National Summer Learning Association emphasizes the importance of community-based summer learning programs for kids of all ages. The report includes many examples of programs with collaborations between a variety of community organizations, including libraries.





# **Book Nook**

#### 2014 Children's and Teen Choice Book Awards

This is the only national book awards program where the



winning titles are selected by children and teens. Last year, over 1,000,000 young readers cast votes! Voting is now open; kids can cast their votes from the finalists in 4 age categories (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, grades 3-4, grades 5-6, and teens). Check out the <u>digital toolkit</u> to help promote the contest to kids and teens in your community. The deadline for voting is May 12; winners will be announced during Children's Book Week (May 12-18).

# One Book 4 Colorado: April 7-21

## Your Events and Ideas, Please!

One Book 4 Colorado is just around the corner! If you have not already done so, please send brief info about any events planned for the program to Ashley Kazyaka for the program website's master calendar; this will help people find your events!

And, if you have ideas, crafts, promotional materials, or any other items you'd like to share with your colleagues around the state for the program, please send them on too and we'll post them to the <a href="Materials">OB4CO</a>
<a href="Materials">Toolkit</a>. Thanks!

### Promotion for OB4CO: Billboard! Trayliners!

This year we are very fortunate that the Lamar company donated space on a billboard for the program! The sign is up now at Colfax Ave and Quebec St in Denver. We are also pleased to have McDonald's again providing trayliners at restaurants statewide that advertise OB4CO; look for them beginning April 7!





#### **OB4CO Social Media and Website**

OB4CO has a <u>website for the public</u> (which includes some great new early literacy tips for parents), along with a Twitter feed (@OneBook4CO) and hashtag (#OB4CO) and a <u>Facebook page!</u> Please frequent them and spread the word to your colleagues and patrons!

# **Timely Tidbits**

### **Books for Military Children**

Through much research, a librarian lists over 100 fiction books portraying children with parents in the U.S. military on this website. The books are in age groups from picture books through YA novels.

#### **REFORMA Colorado Conference is Coming**

The <u>CO chapter of REFORMA</u> is offering its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference on April 30, 1:00-5:00, at the Denver Public Library. The conference offers <u>6 sessions</u> to help you better serve Latino and Spanish-speaking patrons in your community. The cost to participate is only \$10 members, \$15 non-members. <u>Register today!</u>



# Ideas for El día de los niños/El día de los libros



Join in this celebration, commonly known as Día, at your library on April 30! Día is a nationally recognized initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children from all

backgrounds. Find resources for celebrating at the official <u>Día website</u>, the new <u>Día Family Book Club Curriculum</u> from ALSC, on the <u>State Library website</u>, and via a <u>CSL in Session webinar archive</u>.

#### Apply for the CAL Leadership Institute

Apply for a spot in the 2014-15 CO Association of Libraries Leadership Institute (CALLI)! This program is designed to develop leaders within CAL and the Colorado library community. It's a great opportunity to develop leadership skills, meet and network with library colleagues across the state, and hone and show your library skills and passion. The application deadline is April 11.





# More Colorado kids living in poverty

In 2012, 224,000 children in CO lived in poverty. That's one out of every six in the state, according to the annual Kids Count report. CO children under the age of 6 are most likely to be in poverty, with 1 in 5 living in poverty. The report also found that CO is the fifth least affordable state in the nation for child care. Check out highlights from the report.

## Library Science Books Available

Did you know the CO State Library has a collection of library science and education books available for you to check out? Check out the catalog (in Advanced Search, select the CO State Library Professional Collection in the Location box). Here are a few new additions:

- Every Child Ready for School: Helping adults inspire young children to learn Successful social networking in public libraries by Connie Wilson Dorothy Stoltz, Elaine M. Czarnecki, and Connie Wilson, 2013.
- Say it with data: A concise guide to making your case by Priscilla Dando, 2013.
- The best American infographics, 2013 edited by Gareth Cook, 2013.
- Successful social networking in public libraries by Walt Crawford, 2014.

#### **Outside the Lines Coming This Fall**

Outside the Lines: Libraries Reintroduced is a weeklong celebration this September 14-20 to demonstrate the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. Whether your organization is large or small, a school library or a public library, you can participate by creating events that are fun, engaging, and get your local community thinking differently about libraries. Check out the website to learn more and sign up your library!

7 Trends in Children's and Teen Library Services <u>Check out these trends</u> in youth library services from leaders in the field. The Common Core, advocacy, library spaces, connected learning, early literacy, technology, and more are featured in this blog post.

## U.S. Libraries by the Numbers

The Institute of Museum and Library Services recently released a preview of its annual Public Libraries in the U.S. Survey for Fiscal Year 2011. Some highlights:

- 8,956: number of public libraries in the U.S.
- 1.53 billion: number of library visits (more than 4.2 million visits per day!)
- What's going up: library program attendance (for the 8th year in a row), number of programs, number of collection materials, number of public access Internet computers.
- What's going down: number of FTE staff, inperson visits, number of usage sessions of public access Internet computers.

# **Grant Opportunities**

#### **Teen Read Week™ Activity Grant**

Deadline: June 1, 2014

10 libraries will be awarded \$1000 each to help fund their Teen Read Week activities. The 2014 Teen Read Week theme is Turn Dreams into Reality @ your library and will be celebrated October 12-18. To apply and learn more about the grant, watch this video featuring past grantees, and visit the <u>Teen Read Week</u> website.

# Colorado Collaborative for Girls in STEM (CoCoSTEM) **Mini-Grants Available**

Deadline for both: April 28

CoCoSTEM, in partnership with TechBridge, is awarding two types of mini-grants to support girlserving science, technology, engineering, and mathfocused programs:

# **NGCP Mini-Grants**

Support collaborative efforts between two or more Program Directory organizations, ideally organizations that have not previously partnered together. Mini-Grant projects must last longer than one day. The maximum mini-grant award is \$1000.

### **TechBridge Role Models Matter Mini-Grants**

Support collaborative projects that focus on the use of STEM role models and mentors. These grants are limited to individuals who have attended a TechBridge Role Models Matter workshop. The maximum minigrant award is \$500. To apply, click here and check the TechBridge box at the beginning of the application.





# National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) and Earth Day

EE Week, April 13-19, is a celebration of environmental education to inspire environmental learning and stewardship among K-12 students. This year's theme, "Greening STEM: Engineering a Sustainable World," explores the application of engineering to sustainable solutions for a healthier planet and healthier people. Earth Day, April 22, just follows EE Week; this year's theme, "The Green Cities Campaign," is a call to action for investing in efficiency and renewable energy and rebuilding our cities and towns to solve the climate crisis. Follow the links above to learn how to get involved and explore the education resources available.

# Diversity in Children's and YA Books

The Children's Book Council's Diversity Committee is dedicated to increasing the diversity of voices and experiences contributing to children's and young adult literature. Check out its <u>resources for teachers</u> and <u>librarians</u>, which include links to booklists highlighting diverse children's and YA books. There are also <u>resources for parents</u> with some of the same booklists, along with info on why diversity in youth literature is important.

# Ways to Develop Life-Long Readers

This 3-part *Education Week* article series interviews children's literacy experts on how to get early elementary students engaged in reading, effective strategies in creating life-long readers, and more. A follow-up article discusses the critical nature of the social aspects of children's reading.

#### Title Talk: Summer-Fall Previews

Join Baker & Taylor at the Englewood Public Library on May 21, 9:00-3:30, for a free <u>publisher</u> <u>presentation event</u>. Hear presentations of next season's children's and YA titles by publisher reps from Random House, Penguin, Simon & Schuster, Scholastic, Chronicle, and several more; a complimentary lunch; an author presentation and complimentary book signing (Paul Zelinsky is joining!); and more. RSVP by May 2.

#### **PLA Conference Resources**

Not able to attend the recent Public Library

Association (PLA) Conference? Catch many of the handouts and PowerPoint presentations <u>here online</u>, for free!

# **STEM Spot**

#### NanoDays, March 29-April 6

Participate in NanoDays, a nationwide festival of educational programs about nanoscale science and engineering and its potential impact on the future. Resources are available for download and an online catalog features a variety of educational programs and activities, media, evaluation reports, and tools and guides.

#### **Bring Science Home**

Scientific American features a fun, new, science-related activity on its website every Thursday that parents and their six- to 12-year-olds can do together. Adults will find easy-to-follow instructions and simple material lists as well as additional background to help them explain the key concepts. Great for library staff, too!

### **STEM Literacy from Reading Rockets**

Reading Rockets offers many great resources about <u>STEM</u> <u>literacy</u>, including fun activities and tip sheets for both educators and parents (including some in Spanish).

## Science and Math Informal Learning Educators (SMILE)

<u>Howtosmile.org</u> is a collection of free science and math resources designed specifically for non-classroom settings.

#### New insight into how children learn math

<u>New research</u> shows that elementary school-aged children learn math skills best with a hands-on approach.

#### Science: It's a Family Affair

This 16 page guide from Techbridge is meant to help parents support their child's sense of wonder, encourage them to explore scientific questions together as a family, and plant the seeds for future interest—possibly even a career—in science or engineering.

#### STEAM in the Library

<u>This blog post</u> offers simple suggestions for incorporating art into STEM activities, along with resources for more ideas.

# A Blueprint: Maker Programs for Youth

This online guide includes resources for creating maker spaces. It features a template for afterschool or summer programs, and provides information about the types of spaces that can be used, ideas about schedules and format, and the materials and personnel needed to create and sustain a maker program.





# Webinar: Maker Programming for Kids: No Makerspace Required

During this <u>webinar from ALSC</u>, learn how to create your own maker-based programs at all levels of experience and tech-savviness. Attendees will experience a surge in self-confidence in their ability to adapt the Maker Movement to programming in their own library. Fees: \$45 for members and students, \$55 for non-members. It will be offered twice in April:

April 9, 5:00-6:00 pm MT April 24, noon-1:00 pm MT

# **Early Literacy Corner**

# Impact of State Grants to Libraries

In the 2013 legislative session, the Colorado Legislature included an appropriation of \$2 million in the state's budget to fund the State Grants to Libraries Act. This funding went to school, public and academic libraries to purchase educational materials that support or enhance opportunities for early literacy and early learning. Check out the great feedback about the positive impact of this funding on this infographic. State legislators recently received this infographic on Library Legislative Day in an effort to have them continue the funding into the future.

### **Great CLEL Blog Posts**

The bloggers at CLEL have once again been very busy! Check out the blog



for all the latest research, tips, and resources, on topics ranging from talking with babies to a great series on Every Child Ready to Read milestones for specific age groups.

# Trying to Close a Knowledge Gap, Word by Word

This <u>article from *The New York Times*</u> highlights projects across the country intended to reduce the knowledge gap long before school starts. These projects target low-income families and include campaigns to reach parents with the message that it is critical to read and talk with your children, starting at birth, as much as possible.

# How to Start a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

This blog post offers step-by-step help in starting a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at your library. (And check out <u>more resources</u> on the topic on our website!)

# Every Child Ready to Read®, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, for Spanish-Speaking Communities

The Public Library Association and Association for Library Service to Children have just issued Every Child Ready to Read® @ your Library® Toolkit for Spanish-Speaking Communities. It includes Spanish-language PowerPoint presentations for parents, along with Spanish-language handouts and additional resources. The toolkit is \$99 from the ALA Store.

#### **Toxic Stress in the First Three Years Resources**

Early Childhood Colorado Partnership recently held a "Toxic Stress in the First Three Years" Summit, and video clips of keynote and panel presentations are now available online, along with PowerPoints. Check out the follow-up blog from the Partnership's "Progress & Possibilities in Early Childhood" event focused on Two-Generation Approaches.

# **Teen Zone**

### Webinar Archive and Resources Now Available

The archive of and resources for the webinar "Geek is the New Chic: Engaging Teens in Libraries with Technology" <u>are now available</u>. View all the resources for a great look at how to extend Teen Tech Week all year long at your library!

# American Libraries Learn To Read Teenagers

A blogger at NPR (National Public Radio) has taken notice of all the great services and programs that libraries offer to teens!

#### **News from YALSA:**

Making in the Library Toolkit Released
 Interested in incorporating "making" activities
 and programs into your library but worried that
 you don't have the space? Then the NEW Making
 <u>in the Library Toolkit</u> (PDF) created by the
 Makerspace Resources Taskforce is for you! The







toolkit includes background on the maker movement, info on why making is such a great fit for libraries, and ways to incorporate making without a lot of space or money. Sections include planning, partnerships, tools, materials, evaluation, and more!

• Apply for YALSA's Mentoring Program YALSA's virtual mentoring program pairs an experienced librarian with a new librarian, library staff member, or library graduate student. All participants are expected to devote 4 hours per month for a continuous 12 month period to the program. This year's program runs from August 2014 - July 2015. Application deadline is May 27.

# • Teen Tech Week Follow Up

Share your feedback about Teen Tech Week in this brief online survey; YALSA is seeking your input by April 15th to use it to improve and expand this initiative for next year. Also, highlight you & your teens' achievements: be sure to send any great photos or write-ups from your TTW event to your local newspaper, post them online and share them with YALSA via Twitter or Facebook.

# **CO Libraries in the Press**

## Seed Library at the Summit County Library

Summit County Library decided to serve as the venue for the new Summit Seed Library. The library is partnering with High Country Conservation on the project, which will allow people in the area to "check out" seeds, plant them in their gardens or farms, then collect the seeds later and "return" them to the library. The seed library, which launches April 1, will help gardeners and farmers select for seeds with properties suited to their mountain environment.

# New Library Coming to the Pikes Peak Library **District**

The Pikes Peak Library District in CO Springs is taking public libraries into the 21st century with the new Library 21c, scheduled to open in mid-June. The huge new space will feature the largest children's section in the district, study and hang-out spaces for teenagers, a Creative Computer

Commons, an all-ages game design lab, 2 maker spaces (one for messier crafting, and one for dustfree work), and more.

Food for Fines at Garfield County Public Libraries The Garfield County Public Libraries gathered a record amount of food this February during its Food for Fines program, with more than 5,600 nonperishable food items donated. Patrons that donated food received a \$1 credit for each item to pay overdue fines.

STEM in Action: Volz, continued from p. 1

YSN: Did you use libraries while working on your research? How can libraries better support teens and students looking to work on STEM projects?

**Volz:** I visited my local libraries all of the time growing up as reading has been one of my passions from as early as I can remember. I always participated in the summer reading programs and then as I got older, I volunteered many summers to help younger kids participate in those programs. Many of the scientific papers I turned to for background for my algae biofuel work were available online, but I consistently ran into access issues because there were fees for that access --- it would be great if it were possible to make such scientific literature more easily available to high school and junior high students.

**YSN:** How can libraries advocate for STEM?

**Volz:** It would be great if libraries could somehow make scientific literature more accessible and possibly support hands-on science activities or science research with small science fairs or researchproject workshops. Perhaps local libraries could sponsor scientific discussions or speakers, or the discussion of science-related books.

For more on Sara Volz:

Volz's Essay in Society for Science Volz's TED Talk at TEDxOrangeCoast Intel Video Interview with Volz One Year Later