

# NSLA NEWS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

NSLA Board Retreat  
July 8, 2015  
10:00 am  
Seward Public Library

NLA/NSLA Conference  
Oct. 14-16, 2015  
Lincoln

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## President's Message



I began this last year with the goal to connect with as many school librarians in Nebraska as I could. In this experience as President, I have met so many wonderful people throughout the state, but as I reflect on my goal, I do need and wish to continue to advocate for NSLA by meeting even more school librarians.

I was able to visit with friends and meet school librarians while at North Platte for the Librarian's Day. That event was a highlight of the year as your President. The opportunity for our profession to meet across the state and learn from each other to build our own skills is powerful. Congrats to all of those that attended. I also met a number of you while staffing the NSLA table at NETA. Here, I spoke with those passing by and others that made it to the Partnership section just to visit and say "hello!"

Identifying that I have made progress, I still

have not reached my personal goal. Therefore, I plan to use this next year to extend the goal timeline and put a plan into action in order to reach that goal.

How did you fare on the personal goals you made for yourself this year? Was it to look at a MakerSpace area for your library? Perhaps it was to promote your resources through your district social media? How about developing relationships with classroom teachers and collaborate on a project? Whatever the case, please take a moment to reflect on your progress and share that with others. It is in the sharing that brings accountability and the personalizing of the goals and achievements.

Good luck to all of you as you achieve your goals.

Please consider adding a leadership role in NSLA to your next list of goals. The work is rewarding and the extended network of colleagues and friends is unforgettable.

Thank you to all of the team that I worked with this last year during my term. It has been a top year for me only because of the great team of officers, director and committee members. You are all so very special.

Beth Kabes  
NSLA President

## Student Profile: Meet Laura Eberly

“When everyone shares what works best in their libraries, I am able to get new ideas and try things out on my own,” said Laura Eberly the librarian at Nicaragua Christian Academy and a graduate student of the University of Nebraska at Kearney library program. Her school is located right outside the capital city of Managua, Nicaragua.

“We are a bilingual school that serves over 300 students from preschool through 12th grade,” explained Eberly. “The majority of our students speak Spanish as a first language, but all of our main subjects are taught primarily in English.”

Eberly was always interested in spreading her students’ love of reading. “I was a 4th grade teacher for three years. During this time I spent many hours building up my

classroom library, planning interesting reading lessons, and helping our school to build up our reading program. I loved helping my students become readers and watching them grow in their reading lives.”

Toward the end of her third year of teaching, Eberly learned her school was to build a new library to replace the “very, very small room that had housed all the books”; and Eberly decided to take on the challenge of becoming the librarian.

“I realized that championing the new library and creating a library program (something we lacked) was something I could envision myself doing. I took the plunge and started my career as a school librarian this school year,” said Eberly.

She chose to become certified through the online program offered by UNK. Eberly says she is very pleased with the UNK program. “My professors are all incredibly knowledgeable, and they push us to learn or rethink new things each week.”

One of Eberly’s favorite things about studying library science is that she can immediately apply her learning to her school library setting. However, working overseas means she has had to be creative in her lesson planning and in the general library management. “We lack many of the resources that are available in the United States, including reliable internet and easy access to English language books. For this reason I’ve really enjoyed learning from

my classmates,” said Eberly.

Eberly plans to continue as the school librarian at Nicaragua Christian Academy for many years. She already holds the position but she is looking forward to what this degree can do for her as a teacher and for the growth of her school. Eberly finished with the biggest advantage she sees to earning her library sciences degree, “If I return to the States and decide to continue working as a school librarian, this degree will ensure that I am qualified to work in any school I might be interested in.”

Amanda Bergstrom  
NSLA Student Liaison

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## New NSLA Board Members



Paula McClung  
President-Elect



Mary Roesler  
Board Member-at-large



Kimmie Vogt  
Board Member-at-large

## Nebraska Department of Education

The State Board of Education granted the Nebraska Department of Education permission to submit a waiver from the NCLB requirements. As the proficiency targets have reached 100%, many schools have been labeled in need of improvement or failing. As of this writing, the fate of the waiver request has not yet been revealed by the U. S. Department of Education.

The Rule 10 requirements for school library resources will be easier to meet in the near future. If your school has struggled to provide access to an up-to-date print or online encyclopedia or subscribe to enough print magazines or a periodical database, you will be happy to know that the Nebraska Library

Commission will be adjusting its database subscriptions to include resources that are much more user friendly for K-12 school students. The following announcement was just made by the Nebraska Library Commission.

“Based on requests that we have heard from librarians over the years and the funds available for databases, we have accepted a database package from EBSCO. These new databases include Time Inc. publications, *Consumer Reports*, NOLO publications and content for elementary-level students. The database package includes:  
MasterFILE Complete

Primary Search (designed for elementary-level students)

NoveList Plus

NoveList K8 Plus

Biography Reference Center

Biography Reference Bank

MyHeritage

Points of View Reference Center

Legal Information Reference Center

Small Business Reference Center

Consumer Health Complete

Science & Technology

Collection

Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection

Those libraries already subscribing to any of the above databases, and not subscribing through the Nebraska Library Commission in the July-June period, will receive credit from EBSCO that may be applied to another EBSCO product.”

This is great news! Thanks to the staff of the NLC for listening and responding to the needs of K-12 school libraries.

Gail Formanack  
NDE Liaison

## Karla Wendelin Continuing Education for School Librarianship Award

Congratulations to Angela Christensen Fischer, graduate student in the school library program at the University of Nebraska – Omaha on this award.

I have been a classroom teacher at the high school level for 12 years. As I started to think about the next step in my career, I thought about what I love to do. I love to read and to learn about a wide variety of topics in a variety of ways. I quickly realized that there would be no better place to inspire this love of learning and reading for students

than in the school library! I talked to several librarians and met with Dr. Pasco, and I became even more excited about this next step. I see the school library as a place for students to expand their learning and exploration beyond the traditional classroom, and—I hope—beyond the school setting! As the librarian I am excited to take on the role of not only knowing how to access information from different sources, but also how to teach students to do this for themselves; to know how to locate reliable

information and then how to synthesize and utilize this information. I want all students to feel comfortable in the library and excited about all there is to do. It should be a community space for learning and growing together.

The classes I have taken in the program at UNO so far have been amazing. The teachers are inspiring and provide such a wealth of experience and inspiration. At first I was intimidated because I had been away from graduate work for many years, but

the teachers soon built my confidence and encouraged me, so that my uncertainty didn't last long. I love learning about new concepts, new resources, and sharing ideas with other teacher librarians.

As our society moves forward in the high-tech 21<sup>st</sup> century, I am excited about the idea of the school library as a place we can meld technology, print material, critical thinking and imagination in order to inspire young learners and expand their world view.

**Kim Gangwish**

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**We're on the Web!**

[www.neschoollibrarians.org](http://www.neschoollibrarians.org)

**Twitter**

@NSLAorg

**2014-2015 Board**

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President-elect: Laura Pietsch,  
laura.pietsch@ops.org

Past-president: Dr. Sherry  
Crow, crowsr@unk.edu

Secretary: Stephanie Dannehl,  
stephaniedannehl@gmail.com

Treasurer: Angie Richeson,  
angiericheson@gmail.com

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Paula McClung,  
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Kim Jones,  
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Audrey Loosvelt,  
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**Dr. Clara Rottman (1926-2015)**

Dr. Clara Rottman, former Director of Library Media Services for Lincoln Public Schools passed away May 5, 2015.

Mary Reiman, current Director of Library Media Services for LPS stated:

"Dr. Rottman's vision in the 60s is what created our school libraries and Library Media Services. She advocated for the establishment of librarians (media specialists) in all of our schools. We are who we are because of her. She was a kind and gentle soul, but was a force in articulating the importance of library programs! For some of us, she was the woman who saw something in us that made her believe we were worthy of being hired...and we are forever grateful."



October 14-15, 2015 Annual Conference

Lincoln, Nebraska

*Libraries Are the Heart of the Community*