



Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

www.okdrs.gov

March 4, 2019

Pamela Davenport
NLS Network Consultant
(202) 707-8296
pdav@loc.gov

Dear Ms. Davenport and 2019 Network Library of the Year selection committee,

As Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, I respectfully nominate the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (OLBPH) for consideration as the NLS Network Library of the Year for 2019.

The accompanying documents, prepared in accordance with the nomination criteria, describe some of the many reasons why our Oklahoma library is deserving of this high honor. I would like to call your attention to a few of the most impressive highlights:

- OLBPH hosted a Narrator Workshop with Quality Assurance Specialist Chris Mundy. In the process, it enhanced the Digital Recording Studio's partnership with the leaders and staff of *Oklahoma Today* magazine, creating more statewide recognition.
- The library's numbers of individual patrons and total patrons were both more than 7% higher than in 2018.
- Our Digital Recording Studio is a star in terms of quality and contributions to NLS' collection with numerous issues of two magazines and QA-approved books.
- Very high satisfaction ratings, including two that make me especially proud: OLBPH employees are helpful (99%); and treat patrons with respect (99.6%).
- Strong working relationships with DRS professionals in offices throughout the state, plus local libraries, educators, senior care centers, civic groups, and more.

The OLBPH, led by Library Director and Programs Manager Kevin Treese, is a valuable part of both NLS and the Department of Rehabilitation Services. For example, Kevin is the current Midlands (10-state) Region Chair and developed the program for the NLS 2020 National Pre-conference. He also partnered with NLS Senior Advisor Neal Graham exhibiting NLS services at the Blinded Veterans Association national conference in Tulsa in August 2019. One of our librarians, Erin

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Byrne, represents the Midlands Conference on the NLS Collection Development Advisory Committee.

Here at the state level, on June 26, the library hosted DRS's DeafBlind Awareness and Helen Keller's birthday celebration. Governor Kevin Stitt made an appearance, gave a short speech and interacted with many deafblind clients in attendance. OLBPH also recently hosted a day-long statewide training for Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired employees and a DRS Commission meeting.

As you will see throughout this nomination submission, the OLBPH is a treasure and very deserving of the honor you are awarding. I ask for your thoughtful consideration of the Oklahoma Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped as your Network Library of the Year for 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melinda Fruendt'.

Melinda Fruendt
Executive Director
Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

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