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September 4, 2018

Thomas V. Durkin, CPG
Deputy Director
South Dakota Space Grant Consortium
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
501 E. St. Joseph Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Mr. Durkin:

The South Dakota State Library is a division of the South Dakota Department of Education. We are requesting to become an “Affiliate Member” of the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) funded from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA’s) National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. We understand that we can become an active affiliate member by an official request.

I am Daria Bossman, division chair and South Dakota State Librarian. My contact information is below. Our mission is four-fold: 1) to strengthen the work of public, school and academic libraries throughout the state, 2) Expand and improve citizen (and student) access to library services and resources, 3) Develop specialized collections that supplement individual library collections, 4) Provide library services in accessible formats to those who cannot read standard print due to visual or physical impairment.

While we have no specific training programs offered in the area of science education, we have offered technology and STEM-related workshops and trainings. In April and May of this year we conducted Early Literacy STEM workshops at Vermillion Public Library and at our Institute at SDSU using resources and lesson plans from a conference we attended in Vermont funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The national summer reading program (CSLP) has just announced that next year’s theme will be the “A Universe of Stories” with a space-age theme.

With the recent emphasis on STEM learning and with the 2019 Summer reading theme being space-related, we are anxious to associate ourselves with organizations that can help us get current information and programming opportunities out among the 111 public libraries and over 350 school libraries within the state. We hope to collaborate with the Discovery Center this winter here in Pierre offering regional trainers information and kits which they can make available to other public libraries in their region.

Our greatest value to this organization would be our ability to quickly disperse information to our public, school and academic libraries. We can implement relevant NASA education programs quickly across the state. We also have the ability to assist you in addressing the needs of the state in the areas of science and technology education, particularly in the rural areas. Public libraries are eager to have relevant programming for their communities. Thus we are poised to offer you input into the design and implementation of your programs especially informal learning programs and those intended to reach the general public.

If given membership, we will abide by the roles and responsibilities of affiliate members as outlined in Section VI of the SDSGC "Roles and Responsibilities of Members" 2014 document including survey and reporting requirements.

Finally, we can assist you in promoting interest in STEM disciplines and enhancing the public understanding of NASA's mission and aid in SDSGC reach to rural and reservation audiences. We eagerly look forward to your response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daria Bossman".

Daria Bossman

State Librarian

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C: Mary Stadick Smith, Interim Secy. Of Education
Two Enclosures