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CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-7228, mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us

or

Ruth Raveling, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

Five librarians graduate from Library Training Institute

Five librarians graduated this year from the Public Library Training Institute, which took place June 5-10 at Dakota State University in Madison. The institute, sponsored by the South Dakota State Library, is a four-year program of continuing education for librarian practitioners, support staff and trustees of small to medium-sized public libraries who do not have library degrees.

The following individuals graduated this year with a Certificate of Public Library Management:

- Lillie Bucholz, Sherwood Memorial Library, Doland
- Raven Christman, Lemmon Public Library
- Renae Lehman, Georgia Morse Middle School Library, Pierre
- Stephanie Lorenz, Huron Public Library
- Kara Vehar, Scotland Public Library

In all, 26 students from across the state, including library directors and staff attended this year's institute. Attendees learned about collection development, weeding, references, social media platforms, assessment tools and much more.

The program is now in its 29th year, with tuition scholarships funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Students attend in-person classes for one week in June and take additional classes online between summers. No prior formal library science education or previous college attendance is required to attend.

Participants earn a minimum of 120 contact hours over a four-year period and two college credits each year from Dakota State University. Librarians who attend all four years receive a Certificate of Public Library Management and are recognized as certified library practitioners. Once someone starts the program, his or her public library is eligible to apply for state library accreditation. Learn more at library.sd.gov.

Editor's Note: Photos attached

Photo 1 (l to r): State Librarian Daria Bossman, graduates Kara Vehar, Raven Christman, Stephanie Lorenz, Renae Lehman, Lillie Bucholz and Assistant State Librarian Steven Buras

Photo 2: All Library Training Institute participants

