Registration Assistance Awards Breaks Record

Registration Assistance Award applications closed on May 15 with a record number of 102 applications from the national competition sponsored by the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table (LSSIRT) and our eleven state partners. Award letters will go out to recipients the week of June 11. Congratulations to all those who received $175 off the LSSC enrollment fee of $350. Below is a breakdown of the awards by our partners:

LSSIRT: 37  ID: 2  WA: 7
CA: 10  LA: 11  WY: 4
TX: 10  NY: 4  KS: 1
CO: 6  TN: 5  MO: 4

Course Subsidies

LSSC is offering $200 subsidies for 75 candidates to complete LSSC approved courses. All LSSC candidates are eligible to receive a subsidy by completing an application form available at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FYRXSR8. July 30, 2012 is the application deadline. ALA-APA will give first preference to those candidates who have not received a previous subsidy. To apply for a subsidy, applicants must enroll in the LSSC by July 30, 2012. Recipients will be chosen using a random selection process; ALA-APA will announce subsidy awards on August 6, 2012.

Recipients must complete an LSSC approved course by April 1, 2013. To receive the subsidy, recipients must add a Course Certification Certificate to their candidate record and send proof of course payment to LSSC.
New Agreements with LTA programs

The LSSC Program completed agreements with North Carolina’s Central Carolina Community College’s Library and Information Technology Program, and Washington’s Highline Community College’s Library and Information Services Program. These agreements will allow these college graduates, who meet the established criteria, to receive the LSSC designation. LSSC is reviewing the graduation requirements of 13 other colleges to see if these requirements match LSSC competencies.

LSSC Activities in Anaheim

Join LSSC for our Open Forum at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim for discussion on any LSSC topic. The Forum is on Sunday from 1:30 – 3:30pm in the Marriott, Gold Key 1 & 2. All current and future candidates, educators, and library managers are invited to participate.

Update on LSSC Candidates

As of May 31, 2012, 263 candidates (248 active and 15 graduates) from 40 states are LSSC candidates., with more joining every month. Since the ALA Mid-Winter conference in January 2012, the LSSC Program has seen seven new graduates. We congratulate the following candidates on achieving Library Support Staff Certification: Susan Baker (LA), Jason Boak (WI), Debra Brown Wilson (NY), Marie Carpinteri (CT), Tamara Gibbs (IN), Angela McCurdy (IL), and Julie Wright (CA).

Information about LSSC, eligibility, cost, paths to achievement, tips for success, and financial assistance is available on the LSSC website.

Classes and Portfolios

In the last three months, four portfolios have been submitted and approved. In the same time, 17 candidates have completed 26 classes. Candidates who have completed courses should submit Certificates of Course Completion as soon as they complete a course.
LSSC Competencies to be Revised

LSSC is based on the achievement of six out of ten competency sets. The competencies in these sets were first approved four years ago. Work with the competencies by LTA programs and portfolio candidates, plus changes in the library profession, have prompted LSSC’s Certification Review Committee to consider revisions of the competency sets. The CRC worked most of the spring, along with teams of expert librarians and support staff, to recommend revisions in the Competency Sets. These revisions will be presented to the six ALA Divisions that supported the creation of LSSC. Any changes will take effect in fall 2012, after the ALA Executive Board considers the revisions.

If changes are approved, candidates currently working on portfolios based on the current sets can choose to either switch to the new set or continue with the current set. In addition, course providers who have approved courses based on the current competency sets, will not need to submit new information or modify their course.

New Candidates Say....

When they enroll, candidates are asked to tell LSSC why they feel certification is important. Here are two comments from new candidates:

I would like to earn the LSSC because it will validate my knowledge of how the library operates. It will help my career as it will show administration that I take my role of the lone library staff at this school seriously and that I am committed to doing what it takes to offer the best services to the students and staff. Obtaining an LSSC is a personal goal as well.

I enjoy giving patrons the tools to make informed decisions that are right for them or that they can live with. I feel the LSSC Program will give me the confidence to impact the life of more people and help me to understand the future direction and role I will play in the library.

Upcoming Presentations

LSSC staff will make the following presentations at state and national conferences this fall:

- Joint Conference of People of Color, September 19-20
- Association for Rural and Small Libraries (Raleigh, NC), September 27-29
- Wyoming Library Association, September 26-27

For more information about any of the items in Breaking News, please email us at lssc@ala.org.