

ILA Continuing Education Committee Report

Continuing education is working in many directions. First, the regional and statewide annual conferences continue to grow with strong attendance this year. Secondly, the Idaho Commission for Libraries continues to offer programs and training opportunities, through workshops, the summer institute, and the SABLE and ABLE programs. Also, as will be presented at the ILA Annual Conference on Friday afternoon, the library science program offered through the UI Independent Study in Idaho program continues to have students enrolled.

However, there have been some setbacks. The Library Science program at ISU through the College of Education is a state of change, due to the retirement of Dr Richard Pearson last year. Since the program has seen a steady decline in enrollment in the program, the position was not filled. Last fall the College of Education approached the ISU library faculty about teaching the courses, and our response to changing the program from an undergraduate endorsement on a teaching certificate to a Master of Education Technology with library science emphasis. The reasoning was that students that are interested in the program are already teaching and need to take graduate classes to maintain their teaching certificate, and that undergraduate credits are not allowed in such circumstances. A survey was developed and distributed to the attendees of the ILA regional conferences held in Pocatello and Twin Falls in the spring, and available online through the College of Education website. The response was not overwhelming, but there were several that indicated interest in the program, although they were cautious about committing to a program that isn't in place yet. Three classes were taught to three students during the Summer 2006 session. Each faculty member thoroughly enjoyed teaching and would consider teaching again, however there was some difficulty working with the College of Education, and library faculty are concerned with the low level of support for the program. Currently, the College of Education views the program as one that has little interest or demand, therefore not worth the effort to continue.

Submitted by
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