

## **LIS NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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### CCC Offering Statewide Online Program in Library, Info Services

Central Community College is offering a new statewide online program for Nebraskans who want to work in libraries.

Students in the new library and information services (LIS) program will develop practical skills in acquisition, processing and circulation of all types of information resources. The focus will be on library management in small rural libraries as well as assistance in large more urban resource centers.

The LIS program replaces one that was offered jointly by Nebraska's six community colleges, with each college offering one or two courses online.

Dr. Dianna Parmley, dean of educational services at Central Community College-Columbus, said, "The quality of the course work was excellent but there were some logistical problems for students taking courses from several colleges, particularly when it came to financial aid opportunities."

Dr. Eric Jones, dean of educational services at CCC-Grand Island, developed a proposal for the college to offer all of the library information courses and make them available statewide. The chief instructional officers' council of the Nebraska Community College Association approved the proposal last summer.

Students completing the six LIS courses offered online by CCC will receive a certificate from the college and will meet Nebraska Library Commission requirements for Nebraska Public Librarian certification. The library courses were developed in cooperation with the Nebraska Library Commission.

“We’ve been delighted that CCC is stepping up to give this program some good central coordination and leadership,” said Rod Wagner, director of the Nebraska Library Commission. “This is an important program because it provides education across the state for people interested in working in Nebraska libraries and provides a way for them to become certified.”

Participants who complete the program will meet library commission requirements to work in a small Nebraska library. Public libraries must have a certified librarian to be eligible for state grants and for federal funds administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

By completing additional requirements from Central Community College, students can earn an associate of arts degree designed to transfer to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which offers three options for LIS transfer students. Questions regarding options at UNO can be directed to Dr. Rebecca Pasco, director of the library science program at [rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu).

Library and information services courses offered by Central Community College will be available online when the 2009 fall semester begins in August.

For course descriptions, go to [www.cccneb.edu/LIS](http://www.cccneb.edu/LIS). For information about enrolling in the program, contact Mary Young at CCC-Columbus at (402) 562-1296; toll-free at 1-877-222-0780, ext. 1296; or by e-mail at [myoung@cccneb.edu](mailto:myoung@cccneb.edu).