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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIBRARY STAFF ACROSS IOWA UTILIZE THE ICN

(Des Moines, IA) -- Public library staff across Iowa attended an informational meeting that explained revisions made to an accreditation program via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) on Thursday, July 22.

A video session sponsored by the State Library of Iowa included over 90 of Iowa's library directors, trustees, and staff, which utilized 45 video sites in Iowa, connected by ICN's fiber-optic Network. The topic discussed was proposed changes made to "*In Service to Iowa*," which is the manual for the State Library's public library accreditation program.

The Standards and Accreditation program exists to encourage the ongoing development of high quality public library services in Iowa. Iowa's voluntary public library standards program was established to give public libraries a tool to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Scott Dermont, a State Library Consultant stated, "The benefit of using the ICN is that we can reach a great number of people."

During the session, Dermont took the opportunity to discuss the major changes and revisions that were made to the manual. There was much interaction between participants due to the importance of the topic. With the draft manual available for libraries to view, the session provided the connections and gave the chance to provide feedback.

"Using the ICN's video conferencing services give people the opportunity to see and interact more freely. Normally when these sessions are held, we try to reserve all of the video sites located in public libraries," Dermont said.

The ICN is the country's premier fiber-optic network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with equal access to education, healthcare, and government through data, voice, and videoconferencing services. For more information about the ICN, visit www.icn.state.ia.us.

For more information on the State Library of Iowa, visit www.statelibraryofiowa.org.

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