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Indiana State Library

Wednesday Word | December 13, 2023

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Wednesday Word
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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana announces new state director and engagement coordinator



Melinda Brown (l) and Katie Mullins (r).

The Indiana State Library and The Dollywood Foundation are pleased to announce the hiring of Melinda Brown as state director of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana and Katie Mullins as its community engagement coordinator.

Brown has an extensive history working in the nonprofit sector,

Upcoming workshops and important dates

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Central Time

Where: Porter County Public Library - Valparaiso Library Branch

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Brown County Public Library

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Webinar and Virtual Roundtable](#)

When: Jan. 9, 2024, 10:30 a.m.-12

Indiana library jobs



This week's new Indiana library jobs

[Location Manager](#)

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library

[Library Technology Assistant – Learning Resource Center](#)

Ivy Tech Community College
Indianapolis

[Young Adult Associate](#)

Lawrenceburg Public Library District

Those who would like their Indiana library job posting to be listed in the Wednesday Word must submit the position and its description to the Indiana State Library. Click [here](#) for submission guidelines and to submit.

most notably with Stayin' Alive, a Franklin County community organization that addresses substance abuse. Brown helped launch a local Imagination Library program in Franklin County in 2007 and continues to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. With the Imagination Library of Indiana, Brown will manage all aspects of the statewide program, staffing, budget management and developing strategies for fostering and sustaining statewide Imagination Library efforts.

“Working with the Indiana State Library to implement Governor Holcomb’s Next Level Agenda to reach children birth to 5 years of age, by gifting books through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is an invigorating honor!” Brown said.

Mullins has a comprehensive background in public libraries, including ten years of experience as an executive director, most recently with the Eckhart Public Library. During her time as an executive

p.m.

Where: Webinar

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Jan. 10, 2024, 10 a.m.-12

p.m.

Where: Pike County Public Library - Petersburg Branch

[Professional Development Roundtable](#)

When: Jan. 11, 2024, 2-3 p.m.

Where: Webinar

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Jan. 12, 2024, 10 a.m.-12

p.m.

Where: Wells County Public Library

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Jan. 16, 2024, 10 a.m.-12

p.m.

Where: Charlestown Clark County Public Library

In the news



[Foellinger Foundation grants library \\$1 million for reading programs](#)

Allen County Public Library

[Brownstown library board planning to meet](#)

Brownstown Public Library

[Books and services abound at these Indiana libraries](#)

Covington Public Library, Danville Public Library, Eckhart Public Library, et al.

[Fort Branch library expansion celebrated](#)

director, Mullins honed her leadership, librarianship and strategic planning skills, while instilling a love of reading in children. In her new role, Mullins will develop and maintain strong relationships with local and community partners, volunteers, and supporters statewide.

“This opportunity allows me to fulfill many of my passions - early literacy, philanthropy and building community partnerships in the best possible way, with books,” Mullins said.

In August, Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced the expansion of the Imagination Library of Indiana’s statewide book-gifting program. The goal of the expansion is to make books available to children ages 0-5 in every zip code in Indiana. Since the statewide launch, 16 new programs have been established bringing the total to 70 counties. The program is serving 89,278 children. The program will soon be available to more children

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Jan. 19, 2024, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Monticello-Union Township Public Library

[Adventure Begins at Your Library - CSLP 2024 Training and Roundtable](#)

When: Jan. 24, 2024, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Morrisson-Reeves Library

[What's Up Wednesday - Anatomy of a Book Challenge](#)

When: Jan. 24, 2024, 10-11 a.m.

Where: Webinar



Fort Branch-Johnson Township
Public Library

[Ditlevson resigns from Hamilton
East Public Library board](#)

Hamilton East Public Library

[Music for the mind: New HCPL
program encourages singing, dancing
for toddlers](#)

Hancock County Public Library

[HCPL opens makerspace at
Lanesville](#)

Harrison County Public Library

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
now available in Porter County](#)
Imagination Library of Indiana

[Indianapolis Public Library's Nora
branch closes for renovations](#)

Indianapolis Public Library

[Indianapolis Public Library presents
free Holiday Concert Series across
branches](#)

Indianapolis Public Library

[Jackson County Public Library offers
Christmas trivia programs](#)

in Indiana at no cost to families.

The Indiana State Library is the State Program Sponsor and assists in the coordination of the statewide program and governs the state match.

To learn more about becoming a community partner, contact [Katie Mullins](#).

To enroll in this program and learn more as it expands across the state, visit the [Imagination Library website](#).

Bennett-Tinsley student paper award submissions open



The Indiana Historical Bureau, a division of the Indiana State Library, is now accepting submissions for the annual Bennett-Tinsley Award for

Welcome to Digital Collection Highlights. Every other week, librarians at the Indiana State Library share images from the library's ever-growing digital collections. Visit the [Digital Collections](#) page to view the latest additions.

Monument Circle Christmas



Monument Circle in Indianapolis, including [Soldiers' and Sailors'](#)

Jackson County Public Library

[JCPL branches offer Christmas programs of all kinds](#)

Jasper County Public Library

[Season for Sharing: Teenagers raise their voices in Kurt Vonnegut youth writing program](#)

Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library

[Lilly Library works its magic on newly acquired Ricky Jay archive of magical history](#)

Lilly Library at Indiana University

[Library director bids farewell with open house](#)

Shelby County Public Library

[Hey, Sheridan! Pull out those ugly Christmas sweaters!](#)

Sheridan Public Library

[Council seeks shift in St. Joseph County Public Library Board](#)

St. Joseph County Public Library

[Cultivate Food Rescue and St. Joseph County Library provide meals for](#)

Undergraduate History Research and Writing.

This award encourages undergraduate research in a broad range of subjects related to Indiana and the Midwest, and rewards excellence in history research and writing. Many aspects of the region's past, especially related to the history of women, minorities, refugees, peace and social justice issues and the environment, have received limited attention in the historiography. The purpose of this competition is to recognize students who examine these topics and produce scholarship that advances our knowledge of these understudied areas of Indiana and midwestern history.

Entries may be submitted by those who are currently enrolled as undergraduate students and by those who are no more than 12 months beyond college graduation by the due date. The student does not need to be a declared history major, but preference will be given

[Monument](#), has been decorated for Christmas since 1945, prompted by noted Indianapolis architect, Edward D. Pierre. Decorations included Christmas trees, a nativity scene, festive signage, lights, garland and even Santa's warehouse over the years.

In 1962, the Monument was first decorated with vertical cables of lights running from its base to Victory at the apex and was called the "world's largest Christmas tree." The lighting ceremony drew approximately 10,000 people and in 1963, cost about \$10,000. The lighting of the "tree" now regularly occurs the day after Thanksgiving each year.

There are 52 strands of lighted garland put up by around 200 volunteer electricians from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) #481. The electricians work alternating north to south, erecting each strand to protect the structural integrity of the monument. Installation of the

[those facing difficulties](#)

St. Joseph County Public Library

[Adults embark on lifelong learning](#)

Syracuse Public Library

[This event let people get some Christmas shopping done all while supporting their local library](#)

Vigo County Public Library

[New Westfield library takes shape](#)

Westfield Washington Public Library

Is your library making news?

[Email](#) news links for inclusion in the Wednesday Word's "In the news" section.

To be featured in the Wednesday Word, please [email](#) a press release and a photo.



to students in related majors that are equipped to conduct primary source and archival historical research.

Entries must also be accompanied by a signed letter of recommendation from a faculty member or other professional mentor who provided feedback to the student on preliminary drafts and can verify that it is an original work of scholarship.

Judges will award winners a cash prize of up to \$500. The winners will have their papers published on the Indiana Historical Bureau's web page. Additionally, the Indiana Association of Historians will invite the winners to receive their awards at IAH's annual meeting, which takes place on April 5-6, 2024 at the Indiana University, Indianapolis campus.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Completed papers and letters of recommendation must be emailed

lights takes between five and six hours. This tradition has now occurred for over 60 years and the event draws more than 100,000 visitors. It is one of the few remaining holiday events that does not charge an admission fee and boasts live music, vendors and other activities.

North Webster Community Public Library offers 'A Matter of Balance' program



The North Webster Community Public Library, in partnership with the Purdue Extension, is excited to announce the upcoming program "A Matter of Balance." This



State Library blog



Follow the [Indiana State Library's blog](#) for weekly posts covering all aspects of the State Library.

Indiana library employees who would like to contribute a guest blog, please send an [email](#) with an idea.

to [Kelsey Green](#) by Monday, Feb. 12, 2024.

'Getting READY to Build Better School Partnerships' webinar scheduled



On Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. the Indiana State Library will present "Getting READY to Build Better School Partnerships." This free webinar will highlight the SB READY program and school partnerships.

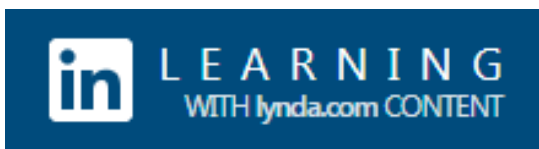
initiative is specifically designed to address the concerns of older adults by focusing on fall prevention and promoting increased activity levels. Falls among older adults can have significant consequences on their overall well-being and quality of life. "A Matter of Balance" aims to empower participants to reduce the fear of falling and adopt simple yet effective exercises that can be easily incorporated into their daily routines to maintain balance as they age.

The program goes beyond individual exercises by fostering a supportive community environment. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a "meeting of the minds," coming together as a group to troubleshoot and address specific problem areas in various scenarios. This collaborative approach enhances the learning experience and encourages a sense of camaraderie among participants.

Miss an issue of the Wednesday Word?

Back issues of the Wednesday Word are available [here](#).

Free training for librarians and library employees on LinkedIn Learning



Text and Learn for Kindergarten program information



Strong school-library partnerships are vital for students in their communities. In 2022, the St. Joe County Public Library designed the SB READY program, which provided 16 schools, 57 classes, and more than 950 Kindergarteners with library cards, field trips and outreach storytimes. Attendees will learn how to build comprehensive school partnership plans, pitch ideas to school and library administrators and gain teacher and library staff buy-in.

Presenter Emily Lovell is the early literacy librarian at the St. Joe County Public Library.

The webinar is eligible for one LEU for Indiana library staff. Click [here](#) to read more and to register.

Please contact [Beth Yates](#), children's consultant at the Indiana State Library, with any questions.

Cathy Ervin, who took part in the fall session of “A Matter of Balance,” attests to the program’s effectiveness, stating, “It would be well worth your while to take this class because an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It greatly helped me!”

The “A Matter of Balance” program is free and will be held at the North Webster Community Public Library every Monday at 10:30 a.m., starting Jan. 8, 2024 and concluding on Feb. 26, 2024.

Interested individuals are encouraged to register by Dec. 11 to secure their spot. For more information, or to sign up for this class, please call the library at 574-834-7122.

The North Webster Community Public Library is located at 110 E. North St. in North Webster. Visit the library's website [here](#).

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