

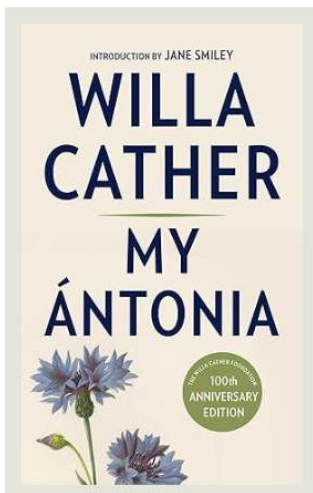
# PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire



## NEA Big Read: My Antonia



Willa Cather's *My Antonia* was among the fifty titles selected by the National Endowment for the Arts for their 2024 Big Read initiative. In partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read supports community reading programs designed around a single NEA Big Read book, with an aim to broaden our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.



[Click here for information](#) about the programs offered to communities including complimentary books for participating organizations; book club resources; creative writing workshops; traveling exhibits related to the novel; guided tours and more!

**Initiatives will take place between September 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.**

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## BOARD MEMBERS:

Sharon Bohling  
Stephanie Branham  
Jody Crocker  
Jamie Dennis  
Sherrie Dux-Ideus  
Jane Hilton  
Lisa Mount  
Jennifer Norton  
Kina Stefka  
James Tidei

# THRIVE TOGETHER

*Nebraska Library Association | Annual Conference 2024*

Register TODAY for the NLA Conference!

Join us for the Nebraska Library Association's annual conference, themed "Thrive Together," from October 9-11, 2024, at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney, NE. This year's conference is dedicated to fostering collaboration, innovation, and growth within our library community.

Attendees will participate in a variety of workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions designed to inspire and equip library professionals with the tools and strategies needed to thrive in today's evolving landscape.

## Keynote Speakers

We are thrilled to welcome racial justice advocate Dr. Artika Tyner and Omaha-based physician/author Dr. Lydia Kang as our distinguished conference guests!



**DR. ARTIKA TYNER**  
Lawyer & Racial Justice Advocate  
Author of "The Inclusive Leader"



**DR. LYDIA KANG**  
Author of "Star Wars: Cataclysm"  
Physician, Professor, Writer

# BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

Class Dates	Class	Registration Dates
open	Communication*	available any time
10/14 - 10/25	Management/Supervision	9/9 - 10/4
11/4 - 11/15	Leadership	9/23 - 10/18
12/2 - 12/13	Library Services to Children & Teens	10/21 - 11/15

[Click here](#) for the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage for the 2024 Basic Skills Schedule and to register for any of the classes.

## NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

NCompass Live is the Nebraska Library Commission's weekly webinar series, covering a variety of library activities and topics. The show is free and open to anyone to watch. These one-hour sessions are hosted by Christa Porter, the NLC's Library Development Director, and include a mixture of presentations, interviews, book reviews, Web tours, mini training sessions, and Q & A sessions presented by NLC staff and guest speakers. Attendees ask questions and participate in the show via VoIP, using their own microphone, or in the live text chat.

**Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)**

To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

<a href="#">NCompass Live: NO NCOMPASS LIVE THIS WEEK - ENJOY NLA!</a>	Oct 9	
<a href="#">NCompass Live: Dragons at the Library: An Exciting New Reading Program</a>	Oct 16	<a href="#">Register</a>
<a href="#">NCompass Live: Letters About Literature 2024</a>	Oct 23	<a href="#">Register</a>
<a href="#">NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech</a>	Oct 30	<a href="#">Register</a>
<a href="#">NCompass Live: Summer Reading Program 2025: Color Our World</a>	Nov 6	<a href="#">Register</a>
<a href="#">NCompass Live: Nebraska Open Meetings Act: 2024 Overview and Update</a>	Nov 13	<a href="#">Register</a>



## Unleash Your Gift-Giving Genius!

Learn how you can help your patrons make 4 easy gifts with the Cricut just in time for the holidays!

This workshop is limited to 12 participants and includes all the materials you need to make 4 different gifts, plus the supply list for you to plan your own workshop.

You may borrow the System's Cricut if your library doesn't have one, yet.

**Hastings Public Library**

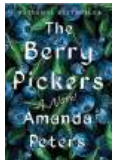
**November 1, 2024**

**9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

[Click here to register.](#)

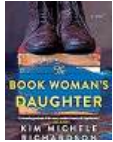


# NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



## **The Berry Pickers** by Amanda Peters (10 copies)

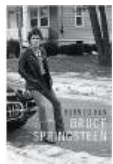
A four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a mystery that will haunt the survivors, unravel a family, and remain unsolved for nearly fifty years.



## **The Book Woman's Daughter** by Kim Michele Richardson (4 copies)

*Donated by Ravenna Public Library*

Bestselling historical fiction author Kim Michele Richardson is back with the perfect book club read following Honey Lovett, the daughter of the beloved Troublesome book woman, who must fight for her own independence with the help of the women who guide her and the books that set her free.



## **Born to Run** by Bruce Springsteen (10 copies)

*Donated by Boone Central High School, Albion*

Over the past seven years, Bruce Springsteen has privately devoted himself to writing the story of his life. The result is “an utterly unique, endlessly exhilarating, last-chance-power-drive of a memoir.”



## **The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls (5 copies)

*Donated by Grand Island Public Library*

This book is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant.



## **Good Omens** by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett (10 copies)

*Donated by Hastings Public Library*

According to **The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter**, Witch, the world will end on a Saturday. Next Saturday, in fact. Just before dinner.



## **The Great Alone** by Kristin Hannah (4 copies)

*Donated by Grand Island Public Library*

Alaska, 1974. Ernt Allbright came home from the Vietnam War a changed and volatile man. When he loses yet another job, he makes the impulsive decision to move his wife and daughter north where they will live off the grid in America's last true frontier.



## **Keepsake** by Kristina Riggle (8 copies)

*Donated by Hastings Public Library*

In **Keepsake**, the author explores that most complicated of relationships, as two sisters raised by a hoarder deal with old hurts and resentments, and the very different paths their lives have taken.



## **Prayers for the Stolen** by Jennifer Clement (5 copies)

*Donated by Grand Island Public Library*

This book gives us words for what we haven't had words for before, like something translated from a dream in a secret language.



## **Winter Garden** by Kristin Hannah (8 copies)

*Donated by Ravenna Public Library*

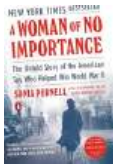
This powerful, heartbreaking novel illuminates the intricate mother-daughter bond and explores the enduring links between the present and the past.



***The Woman in the Window*** by A. J. Finn (5 copies)

Donated by Grand Island Public Library

This title is a tour-de-force Hitchcockian thriller about an agoraphobic woman who believes she witnessed a crime in a neighboring house.



***A Woman of No Importance*** by Sonia Purnell (5 copies)

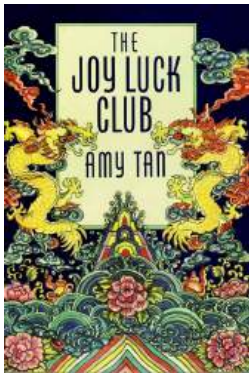
Donated by Grand Island Public Library

This book is the never-before-told story of Virginia Hall, the American spy who changed the course of World War II.

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## BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW



Amy Tan's debut novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, drifts between the stories of mothers and daughters like the four winds of mahjong. Originally written as disconnected pieces, Tan evolved her work into a sweeping novel of generations, loss, and perseverance.

The Joy Luck Club, a group of Chinese immigrant women who gather for mahjong and community, grow their lives and families together in 1980s San Francisco. When matriarch Suyuan Woo passes away, her daughter Jing-mei is invited to take her mother's spot at the table. And there she learns a hidden truth about her mother- she never stopped searching for the children

she had to abandon in China decades ago, and only now have they been found. Jing-mei struggles with the loss of her mother, someone she feels as if she hardly knew, and the sudden reunification with her resurrected sisters. And in turn, like Suyuan, each daughter and mother of The Joy Luck Club, have kept themselves secret to their loved ones. Hiding difficult and life-defining events as an act of piety or restraint, that could ultimately grow and foster their fraught relationships.

If you're interested in requesting *The Joy Luck Club* for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). There are 14 copies.

Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*. Ballantine Books. 1989

[Read Mackenzie's full review here.](#)

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### Library Director Needed



HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY is accepting applications for a full time Library Director. The Director works under the direction of the Library Board of Trustees and is a City of Alma employee. Salary is commensurate with experience. For more information on the position visit the library, our webpage, or call (308)928-2600. Apply by submitting a letter of interest, and a resume with a minimum of three work-related references to Hoesch Memorial Library, PO Box 438, Alma NE 68920. Applications accepted through 5:00 p.m. October 10, 2024. Position open until filled.

# Don't Forget About...



The Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission have teamed up to provide access to Reader Zone. This web-based software lets you create paperless reading logs. Your students and patrons can report their progress through the Reader Zone app or via the Reader Zone website. You will be able to see statistics and reports without having to compile them yourself. **This program is free for your library.** If you are not familiar with Reader Zone, [click on this link](#).

You will be able to create multiple "groups" to best serve your community's needs. For example - you might create a group for young readers that has the goal based on the number of books read per week, one for teens based on number of minutes spent reading per month, and then one for adults that has per-page milestones.

**This system is available to public, school, and academic libraries year-round for reading programs for all ages. [Click here to sign up now!](#)**

Contact [denise.cpls@gmail.com](mailto:denise.cpls@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

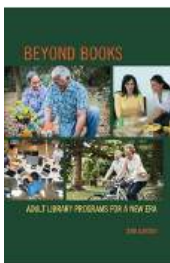
## New Professional Books in the CPLS Library

The Central Plains Library System's Professional Library has some new titles. If you would like to borrow any of these books, please call the CPLS Office or email Denise at [denise.cpls@gmail.com](mailto:denise.cpls@gmail.com).



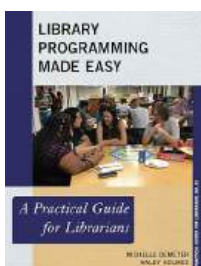
***Teaching Life Skills at the Library*** by Kimberli S. Buckley.

This book provides a hands-on and interactive approach to creating and planning library programs and activities that will enable teens and young adults to learn and build the most important life skills including making financial decisions, maintaining a healthy work-life balance, and juggling health, family, friends, and other responsibilities.



***Beyond Books: Adult Library Programs for a New Era*** by Jenn Carson

This book asserts that offering diverse adult programs is an important catalyst for fostering community connection and individual wellness, and that no librarian needs to deliver them alone.



***Library Programming Made Easy: A Practical Guide for Librarians*** by Michelle Demeter and Haley K. Holmes

Libraries are always looking for new ways to engage with their patrons, and well-planned programming is one way to accomplish this goal. This book provides in-depth practical advice and examples of public and academic library programming activities.

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# CPLS Will Provide A Speaker for Your Library

*Would you like to have a live performance at your library?*

Humanities Nebraska has many fine speakers. Browse the Speakers Bureau Catalog: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/catalog/>.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Buffalo Bill's Nebraska by Jeff Barnes
- Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train by Charlotte Endorf
- Grit 'n' Gumption by Cherrie Beam-Callaway
- Ho for America! Northern European Immigrants to the Midwest by Jeff Kappeler
- Meet Buffalo Bill by Terry Lane
- Music of the Plains by David Marsh
- Nebraska Territory Stories by David Seay
- Overland Trails: The Children on the Trail by Renae Hunt

The Central Plains Library System will provide the administrative fee for each library in our System that books a Humanities Nebraska program this year. That means you can have a terrific live performance any time, without cost for your library.

1. First, contact the performer.
2. After your program details are finalized, fill out the form on the Humanities Nebraska website: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Catagory-I-new.pdf>, print it out and mail it to the address on the bottom of page 2.
3. When completing the form, include the following on the bottom of the first page: "Please bill to CPLS."





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# AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,300 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD and MP3 formats) for a loan period of 90 days.



Here are some new additions:

- The Edge* by Baldacci, David
- Lost Man's Lane* by Carson, Scott
- Bad Tourists* by Carver, Caro
- The Watchmaker's Hand* by Deaver, Jeffery
- The Hunter* by French, Tana
- The Exchange: After the Firm* by Grisham, John
- This Other Eden* by Harding, Paul
- Lost Birds* by Hillerman, Anne
- Code Name Sapphire* by Jenoff, Pam
- The Silver Bone* by Kurkov, Audrey
- The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by McBride, James
- A Death in Cornwall* by Silva, Daniel
- Only If You're Lucky* by Willingham, Stacy

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## Shortlist for 2025 **One Book One Nebraska** Announced

What book will all Nebraskans be encouraged to read in 2025? We will all find out on October 12th at the Nebraska Celebration of Books (N.COB) literary festival. A collection of nonfiction essays about Nebraska, a novel set in 1950's about personal journeys, a historical fiction novel about the Pacific theater in World War II –all stories with ties to Nebraska—are the finalists for the 2025 One Book One Nebraska statewide reading program. The finalists are:

- ***My Nebraska: The Good, the Bad, and the Husker*** by Roger Welsch, The Globe Pequot Press, 2006.
- ***The Lincoln Highway: A Novel*** by Amor Towles, Viking Press, 2021.
- ***The Long March Home: A World War II Novel of the Pacific*** by Marcus Brotherton and Tosca Lee, Revell, 2023.

# NEBRASKA'S 2024 BOOK AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Celebrate Nebraska's 2024 Book Award winners with author readings and an awards presentation ceremony at the Nebraska Celebration of Book's (NCOB) literary festival. Held at the UNL City Campus Union on October 12th, winners of the 2024 Nebraska Book Awards will be honored at the celebration which will include an author roundtable during the festival and the awards ceremony directly after at 3:30. The ceremony will feature readings by some of the winning authors, designers, and illustrators of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2023. And the winners are:

**Children's Picture Book:** *Ted Kooser: More Than a Local Wonder* written by Carla Ketner, illustrated by Paula Wallace. Publisher: University of Nebraska Press.

**Children's Novel:** *The Adventures of Pearl and Monty: The Bait and Switch* by E. Adams. Publisher: Jade Forest Publishing.

**Teen Novel:** *The Unstoppable Bridget Bloom* by Allison L. Bitz. Publisher: HarperTeen.

**Cover and Design:** *Feisty Righty: A Cancer Survivor's Journey* by Jennifer D. James, Cover Art by Courtney Keller. Publisher: Self Published.

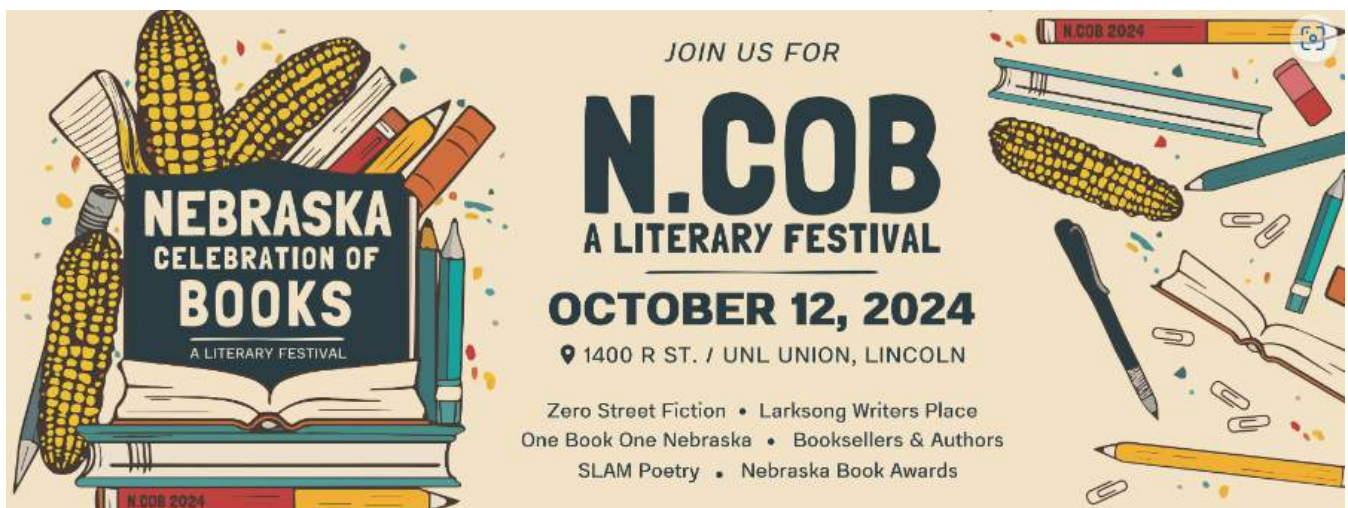
**Design Honor:** *Horizons* by Julie S. Paschold. Publisher: Atmosphere Press.

**Fiction:** *The War Begins in Paris: A Novel* by Theodore Wheeler. Publisher: Little, Brown and Company.

**Nonfiction Nebraska as Place:** *Field Guide to a Hybrid Landscape* by Dana Fritz. Publisher: Bison Books.

**Nonfiction History:** *The First Migrants* by Richard Edwards and Jacob K. Friefeld. Publisher: Bison Books.

**Poetry:** *The Gathering of Bastards* by Romeo Oriogun. Publisher: University of Nebraska Press.



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# System Services Spotlight

## Deb's Preschool Projects

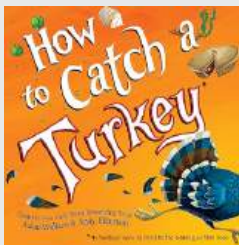
These craft projects feature shapes made by the System's die cutting equipment. Our intent is to save our CPLS librarians valuable time each month. Place your order for the craft materials before the posted deadline by emailing Deb at [cplsasst@gmail.com](mailto:cplsasst@gmail.com). There is no charge for this service.

This turkey looks a little bit nervous to be out and about in November, but he is sure to be a favorite with your preschoolers. He is made with handprints cut from fall-colored cardstock and will be a breeze to assemble. The children will use school glue or glue sticks to put together the tail, add the googly eyes, and, of course, each turkey needs a beak. The finished size of this craft is 9.5" w x 8" h.

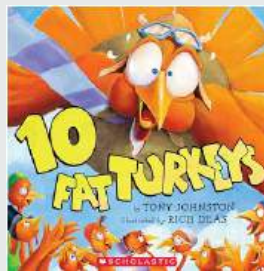


Please let us know how many you need for your class by **October 21st**.

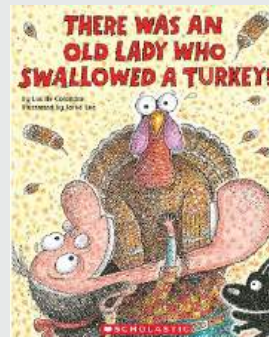
### Book Suggestions:



**How to Catch a Turkey**  
by Adam Wallace and  
Andy Elkerton  
Ages 2-6 years old



**10 Fat Turkeys**  
by Tony Johnston and Rich Deas  
Ages 2-5 years old



**There was an Old  
Lady Who Swallowed  
a Turkey!**  
by Lucille Colandro  
Ages 2-6 years old



## CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to attending events such as the NLA Conference or other training opportunities that will come up in the first half of 2025. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events. These funds are available to help cover expenses such as registration, mileage, meals, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship requested for \_\_\_\_\_ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested \_\_\_\_\_

Who should the check be made out to \_\_\_\_\_

Other information \_\_\_\_\_

Send your request to: Central Plains Library System  
2727 W. 2nd Street #233  
Hastings, NE 68901

## Disc Cleaning and Repair

The CPLS Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System.

It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From July 1, 2024, thru June 30, 2025, each CPLS member library has unlimited free disc cleanings available to them.





## 2025 NLC Grants are Open for Applications!

Nebraska Public Libraries and State-run Institutions! Do you have an idea for a program or project you would like to see funded?

The Nebraska Library Commission has made funding available for four grants for 2025: Continuing Education & Training, Internship, Library Improvement, and Youth Grants for Excellence.

Applications are being accepted for all NLC grants right now! Don't let your library miss out on these opportunities!

**Grant applications for all 2025 NLC grants are due November 15, 2024.**

For more information about these grants, view the archived NCompass Live webinar, [NLC Grants for 2025](#).

Continuing Education & Training grants help assist Nebraska libraries to improve the library services provided to their communities through continuing education and training for their library personnel and supporters. Successful applications will show how the continuing education and/or training proposed will support the library's mission. There will be two rounds of CE Grants. The first fall grants will open in September and applications will be accepted for events/projects/classes that must be completed before June 2025. The second spring round will open in March and applications will be accepted for events/projects/classes that begin after June 2025.

Internship grants work to introduce high school and college students to the varied and exciting work of Nebraska libraries. The internships are intended to function as a recruitment tool, helping the student to view the library as a viable career opportunity while providing the public library with the finances to provide stipends to the student interns.

Library Improvement grants facilitate growth and development of library programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries, by supplementing local funding with federal funds designated for these purposes.

Youth Grants for Excellence are available specifically for innovative projects for children and young adults in your community. The program encourages creative thinking, risk-taking, and new approaches to enable youth librarians to begin needed programs and try projects which they have been unable to undertake, and to offer an opportunity to expand youth service capabilities in new and different directions.

## Borrowing Games from CPLS



Would you like to host a game night at your library, but not sure if you have the games people want to play? The Central Plains Library System can help you. We have a whole variety of games that you can borrow and let your patrons give them a try. [See the list of available games on the CPLS website.](#)

Borrow up to 5 games at a time. Call the CPLS Office or email Denise or Deb, and we'll get them to you ASAP.



## E-rate: What's New for 2025?



Get your library's piece of the E-rate pie!

**NOTE:** This online workshop is being offered on several days and at varied times, to give participants multiple opportunities to find a convenient time to attend. The same information will be provided at each workshop, so you only need to register for one session. A recorded version will also be made available after all of the live sessions have been held.

What is E-rate? How can my library benefit from E-rate?

How do I apply for E-rate?

E-rate is a federal program that provides discounts to schools and public libraries on the cost of their Internet Access and Connections to make these services more affordable. This includes Broadband, Fiber, and Wi-Fi Internet access as well as Internal Connections, such as wiring, routers, switches, and other network equipment. And new for 2025: Wi-Fi hotspots!

In this workshop, Christa Porter, Nebraska's State E-rate Coordinator for Public Libraries, will explain the E-rate program and show you how to submit your Funding Year 2025 E-rate application.

Dates and times:

- November 20 – 1:00-4:00pm Central / 12:00noon-3pm Mountain
- November 22 – 9:30am-12:30pm Central / 8:30-11:30am Mountain
- November 25 – 1:00-4:00pm Central / 12:00noon-3pm Mountain
- November 26 – 9:30am-12:30pm Central / 8:30-11:30am Mountain

To register for any of these sessions, go to the Nebraska Library Commission's [Training & Events Calendar](#) and search for 'e-rate 2025'.

# NEBRASKA SMART IS A FREE VIRTUAL TUTORING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12.



Teacher education candidates from Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State Colleges remotely tutor students in rural Nebraska. This program is currently offering services to:

- All NRCSA member school districts
- Educational Service Unit 1
- Educational Service Unit 4
- Educational Service Unit 13
- Other select smaller rural school districts

Visit our website for the full list of school districts served.

## HOW IT WORKS

Nebraska students in grades K-12 have free access to online tutoring with a qualified Tutor in English, math, science, and social studies. Parents must first register their child. Once registered, students can request pre-scheduled appointments with a Tutor or log in and request on-demand tutoring to be connected with the next Tutor available in the queue. Students should provide homework for which they wish to receive help or topics that they would like to cover.



## TUTORING HOURS



## OUR PARTNERS

The Nebraska Department of Education has awarded a grant to the Nebraska State Colleges to develop a program that provides free online tutoring to K-12 students in rural Nebraska.



## OUR TUTORS

Tutors are full-time students at Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State Colleges who have been admitted to the teacher education program, have completed background checks, and received training through their teacher education program coursework.



PLEASE VISIT

[nscs.edu/NebraskaSMART](https://nscs.edu/NebraskaSMART)



FOR THE FULL LIST OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVED.

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



October	National Reading Group Month
Oct. 9-11	Nebraska Library Association Annual Conference, Kearney. See page 2.
Oct. 12	Celebration of Nebraska Books, Lincoln. See page 10.
Oct. 14	Indigenous People's Day (Columbus Day) - CPLS Office Closed
Oct. 17	CPLS Board Meeting, Kearney Public Library 10am
Oct. 19	Regional Jigsaw Puzzle Competition, Ord Township Library
Oct. 21	Deadline for Deb's Preschool Project for November. See page 11.
Nov. 1	Unleash Your Gift-Giving Genius. Hastings Public Library, 9:30am - 12:30pm
Nov. 15	Deadline for NLC Grants. See page 13.
Nov. 18	Deadline for Deb's Preschool Project for December.
Nov. 20	E-Rate Training, 1 - 4pm. See page 14.
Nov. 21	Quarterly Meeting with the System Directors and NLC, Lincoln, 10am - 2pm
Nov. 22	E-Rate Training, 9:30am - 12:30pm. See page 14.
Nov. 25	E-Rate Training, 1 - 4 pm. See page 14.
Nov. 26	E-Rate Training, 9:30am - 12:30pm. See page 14.
Nov. 28-29	Thanksgiving Holiday - CPLS Office Closed

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## CPLS Office:

Office:

2727 W. 2nd St, Suite 233

Hastings, NE 68901

(800) 569-4961

Denise Harders

Cell: (402) 705-1409

Email:

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Deb Fairbanks

Phone: (402) 462-1975

Email:

cplsasst@gmail.com

Nicole Ruzicka

Email:

cpls.nicole@gmail.com

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A GREAT LIBRARY CONTAINS  
THE DIARY OF THE  
HUMAN RACE.

~ George Mercer Dawson,  
Opening of the  
Birmingham Free Library  
26 October 1866  
(158 years ago)

