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~ Media Advisory ~

Springfield Public Library Receives Award

Outstanding Ready to Read Grant Award recognizes Springfield Public Library's work supporting early literacy in Springfield



Figure 1: From left to right Mayor Christine Lundberg, Library Director Emily David, Library Associate Manager LuCinda Gustavson, Youth Services & Outreach Librarian Taylor Worley, State Library Youth Services Consultant Greta Bergquist.

Springfield Public Library was awarded an Outstanding Ready to Read Grant award from the State Library of Oregon at this week's Springfield City Council Meeting.

Greta Bergquist, Youth Services consultant at the State Library, presented Library Director Emily David, Associate Manager LuCinda Gustavson, and Youth Services & Outreach Librarian Taylor Worley with the award in front of City Council.

“Springfield Public Library was selected for this award because [their] project established a good model for other libraries and developed strong partnerships to improve services to underserved youth,” said Bergquist at Council.

Springfield Public Library was one of only four projects selected for state recognition.

Springfield Public Library staff used the state funding to create and maintain a Play and Learn Activity Center that transformed every six weeks into a new themed early learning play area. Library staff also intentionally focused on sharing early literacy information with parents and caregivers, building kindergarten readiness into each session.

“The concept was really in response to the needs and requests of Springfield residents,” said David. “It’s allowed us to develop strong community partnerships while supporting early literacy skills. It’s easily one of the most popular spots in our Library for children and families and has become integral to our early literacy mission.”

Library staff also focused on building literacy outside Springfield Public Library walls by working with multiple community partners to share Welcome Baby! kits with new families. The Library also supported families building literacy at home with a bilingual theme kit collection and parent resource collection.

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