

City of Dallas News Release

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June 20, 2008

Dallas Library's *Grow Your Own Librarian* program receives grant funding:

The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program award will help employees complete MLS degrees

DALLAS – Thanks to a \$549,909 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Dallas Public Library staff members will get some help in completing their Master of Library Science degrees over the next three years. Dallas and San Antonio were the only two public libraries in Texas to receive IMLS grants as part of the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, announced June 17 in Washington, D.C. A total of 31 institutions received grants totaling \$20.3 million in the 2008 program.

Under its “Grow Your Own Librarian” program, Dallas Public Library Director Laurie Evans said 30 Library staff members will receive scholarships to study for Masters of Library Science degrees at Texas schools. To better serve the Library’s increasingly diverse audience, Spanish-speaking staff members and minorities will be especially targeted for assistance. The program will also fund a librarian mentor program and student attendance at state and national professional conferences

“We are very grateful to the IMLS for this award, which will help us train the next generation of librarians at the Dallas Public Library,” Evans said.

First Lady Laura Bush announced the President’s multimillion dollar support of an initiative to help bolster the library profession in 2002. Since then, IMLS has helped fund the education of 3,220 master’s degree students, 186 doctoral students, 1,256 pre-professional students, and 26,186 continuing education students.

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St. and 25 branch locations. A library card is free for any Dallas resident. For information on the many free programs and services available at the Dallas Public Library, go to: <http://dallaslibrary.org/home.htm>

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