

Partnering to Build a 21st Century Community of Oklahoma Academic Librarians Project

The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies (OU SLIS) recently received a \$414,545 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the "Partnering to Build a 21st Century Community of Oklahoma Academic Librarians" Project. OU SLIS is partnering with 9 Oklahoma academic libraries, including the Southern Nazarene University Library, in recruiting and educating 15 new academic librarians prepared to fill leadership roles in providing services to underserved and minority groups. These recruits will be awarded IMLS-funded scholarships to earn a master's degree in librarianship through the SLIS Master of Library and Information Studies online and face-to-face groups.

SNU Library's Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Coordinator, Kathryn Hankins, has been selected as part of the Spring cohort. The Project provides student support of in-state tuition and fees, a textbook allowance, a laptop computer, travel to a half-day orientation to the Project, and cohort attendance at two state and one national library conferences. The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies offers Oklahoma's only American Library Association-accredited master's degree.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.