



BACK TO SCHOOL- FOR MLS STAFF

Since MLS is one of the primary information centers for the central Oklahoma community, putting life-long learning at the center of our work life seemed only natural.

The staff of your Metropolitan Library System is dedicated to providing you with the right stuff. That may come in the form of books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, magazines, newspapers, or online databases, but we'll have it here for you.

As important as it is to have what you need, it's equally important that we know how to find what you need and get it to you. We are committed to having up-to-date knowledge, skills, and abilities to deliver library services. That's why we created what we call "Metro University." It's just for us, but the benefits are all for you.

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"When we hire a new employee," said Stacy Schrank, MLS Employee Development Coordinator and President of the Continuing Library Education and Networking Exchange Round Table of the American Library Association, "we

always hire the person most qualified for the job, but we need to make sure he or she remains well qualified so we developed an in-house training component modeled after the college experience."

Stacy, whose background is in education, created Metro University when he joined the MLS team four years ago. He realized that employees respond well when they are trained by other employees, so while Metro U frequently works with outside consultants and trainers, the majority of the "faculty" is made up of subject matter

experts who are also library staff members. Beyond being just the "dean," Stacy is responsible for training the trainers.

"We keep an eye on what other library systems are doing for in-house continuing education," Stacy added. "MLS has been doing it as long as anybody. Staff training was in place before I got here."

That's true, but Stacy is making it sleeker, more professional, and a lot more fun for staff. That's why so many classes have to be offered. Metro U's catalog lists around ten classes per month. Some colleges don't do as well.

Metro University is not to be confused with the College Consortium that is housed on the fourth floor of the Downtown Library. The classes the Consortium offers are open to the public. MLS' Metro U is just for staff and is a very private school.

"I love it," Stacy concluded, "that we can have such a good time while we develop and sharpen the skills we need to bring you the best library service in Oklahoma."

Metro University is not just the right stuff—it's the best stuff.

