

# Memo

**To:** State Library Commission

**From:** Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian

**Date:** July 17, 2009

**Re: Commissioner to serve on the Montana Scholarship Committee for SWIM project**

In December, Montana applied, in partnership with 3 other states (Idaho, South Dakota, Wyoming), for a regional library education scholarship grant called SWIM. We have been informed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services that the SWIM project was selected for funding. It is very exciting!

SWIM will make available to residents in our region 30 scholarships for MLIS degrees through the University of North Texas's distance program, and 20 scholarships for School Library Media Endorsement credentials through distance programs available in Montana and South Dakota. The project will also encourage all of the SWIM library students to participate in professional development through membership in state library associations and attendance at annual conferences. Swim graduates will work in the region for two-years following completion of the degree/endorsement program.

One of the first tasks for SWIM is to appoint a Montana Scholarship Committee to assist with awarding ten scholarships designated specifically for Montana residents. This 7-member Committee will meet once (tentatively in early April 2010) to review and screen all Montana applications and make a recommendation to the SWIM Advisory Council for scholarship awards. The Committee will recommend six Montana residents to receive MLIS scholarships and four Montanans to receive endorsement scholarships. In addition, the Committee will provide a list of other worthy Montana applicants to be considered for ten at-large scholarships to be awarded as part of the SWIM project.

I would like to invite the Commission to select one of your members to participate in SWIM as a member of the Scholarship Committee. Would you be interested in having

a Commissioner serve on the Committee? I think a Commissioners' experience with distance learning, the PEEL scholarship program, and other statewide library issues would be of value to the Committee's work. Any expenses incurred by the Committee members will be covered by MSL. If you have questions about the Montana Scholarship Committee's duties or requirements, please let me know.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.