

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****February 24, 2015****Contact:** Christie Kodama,  
[ckodama@umd.edu](mailto:ckodama@umd.edu)**Lilead Fellows Meet in Chicago to Collaborate on  
Transformational Projects for their School Districts**

Erin Downey, Consulting Librarian for Boise School District, recently attended the first face-to-face meeting of the Lilead Fellows Program in Chicago, Illinois. The Program is an intensive 18-month professional development opportunity focused on empowering, enabling, and equipping library supervisors to make transformational changes for teaching and learning in their districts and communities. The Fellows are charged with thinking deeply, critically, and differently about the impact school libraries can make on all members of their school communities, including students, teachers, parents, and administrators. Downey was selected as one of 25 Fellows from a competitive, nationwide pool of applicants.

The Chicago meeting was used for Erin Downey to meet and collaborate with equally passionate district library supervisors working toward positive change, not only for the school library programs, but also for their school districts. This meeting allowed Erin to work together with other district supervisors to create a goal for Boise School District's school library program that better aligns the school library vision with the overarching vision and goals of the District. Over the next several months, she will work virtually with her Mentor, Ann Ewbank, Director of the School Library Media Program at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, and an expert in the field of library science, and four other Fellows to form a concrete plan for transformative change and to encourage each other to work towards achieving this goal. The entire Fellows cohort, along with all the Mentors and Lilead Team, will meet again this July in College Park, Maryland for a 3-day Summer Institute where the focus will be on using leadership to enact change.

We are very excited about the work that Erin Downey is doing. We know that it will make a significant difference in your school district and that implementing her plan will help Boise School District make progress towards quality teaching and learning for all students in Boise schools.

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**About the Lilead Fellows Program**

The [Lilead Fellows Program](#), supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), is an intensive 18-month long professional development program consisting 25 school district library supervisors from across the country. This professional development opportunity allows participants to develop leadership skills in integrating information literacy instruction with content area standards, technology use and integration, and advocacy for library programs and services. Learn more by following us on [Twitter](#).

**About the Institute for Museum and Library Services**

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. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).