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Library Director's Annual Report: "What an Incredible Year It Has Been!"

The Ericson Public Library circulated 117,863 physical materials, recorded 25,939 website visits, hosted 938 programs and had 13,753 program attendees during the previous fiscal year, according to its newly released annual report.

"What an incredible year it has been. After 15 years of serving this library and community, I can confidently say this year ranks at the top! While it's challenging to pinpoint a single reason, there seems to be an abundance of activity, excitement and even more to look forward to," director Jamie Williams wrote. "As always, my primary goal is to create a meaningful impact through our services and programs. ... A significant focus of our library staff and board is determining how we can be more responsive to our community."

She stated that community engagement, "often facilitated through partnerships, as we are a small team," is a priority for the library staff and board. "Over the past fiscal year, we have diligently worked to identify ways to enhance or relevance within partner organizations to create a greater impact," she added.

Improvements implemented during the fiscal year included:

- an upgraded printer to enhance capabilities and offer more convenient ways for patrons to print directly from their devices;
- an upgraded security system;
- updated meeting rooms spaces.

"Another way we addressed technology goals was by digitizing more content from our local newspaper from 2007 to 2023. Increased access to digital content allows not only those in our community to research the collection from anywhere but also those outside of the library walls," Williams stated.

In addition to thanking the City of Boone, Boone County and contract cities for public funding, Williams' report noted importance of and expressed appreciation for community support from private donors, civic organizations and local businesses. "In fiscal year 2024 we accomplished several important things from our strategic plan as mentioned with the \$64,746 in extra funding. Without this funding we would not be able to offer a BookBike, AdventurePass, technology classes, exciting and educational kids programming in the summer and throughout the year, snacks, Storywalk, books for wellness visits at the Boone County Hospital, Hoopla, digital *Boone News Republican* and much more," she wrote.

Williams also thanked her staff members for their dedication, care, creativity, praised the library's 42 volunteers for their 240 hours of time during the fiscal year, and library board members for being "committed to the very best library" for the Boone community.

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