

## GOOD-NEWS

# CapFed Best News: Kansas Book Festival grants \$10,000 to 11 libraries statewide

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The Kansas Book Festival granted \$10,000 to 11 public and school libraries across the state. Each library that received money is looking to improve its book holdings or technology.

Libraries that received money include Wamego Public Library, Kiowa County Library, Greely County Library, La Cross Middle and High School Library, La Cygne Public Library, Midland Trail Elementary Library, Oak Grove Elementary Library, Peabody Township Library, S.E. of Saline Elementary and Secondary Libraries and Wilson Schools Library.

Each library received a portion of the \$10,000 ranging from \$600 to \$1,800.

According to a news release from Tim Bascom, executive director of Kansas Book Festival, funding needs varied throughout the state.

"In Peabody, 45 miles north of Wichita, a \$750 grant will go toward books that help children from impoverished or dysfunctional homes to deal with related trauma," Bascom said.

"Rodger Charles, the director of the Peabody Township Library, is collaborating with local school counselors and teachers so that they have timely access to resources that can help children who are at risk."

Michelle Davis, a librarian at Oak Gove Elementary School in Kansas City, Kan., will use the \$750 grant to purchase books that include a combination of different languages, such as English, Burmese, Serbian and Spanish.

"Currently, our library has 19 bilingual books out of a total of 13,399 books, meaning 0.14% of our books are bilingual," Davis said.

Darci Hildebrand, Wamego Public Library director, will use the \$800 grant to purchase stands, microphones, lighting equipment and a portable green screen so the library can live stream events for those watching from home.

“The effects of the pandemic have pushed many into isolation in a way that once seemed unfathomable,” Hildebrand said. “It has become evident that technology is no longer just a luxury but a necessity.”

The Kansas Book Festival grant program, which was started by Mary Brownback about 10 years ago, has granted \$95,000 to Kansas libraries. This year's book festival will take place Sept. 18 at Washburn University.