

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1731

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library for being named Library of the Year by Library Journal.

WHEREAS, On June 7, 2016, Library Journal announced that the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL) was named Library of the Year, the highest honor for a library in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Since 1992, the Library of the Year Award has been given annually to a role model library that demonstrates creativity, innovation, leadership and outstanding service to the community; and

WHEREAS, TSCPL facilitates community meetings to discuss various topics, such as increasing collective health, battling poverty and homelessness, creating work-readiness programs, feeding children and supporting young professionals; and

WHEREAS, Through TSCPL's Community Health Improvement Plan, the library helps community members and service providers create goals, strategies and opportunities for community action based on areas of focus identified in a city-wide needs assessment; and

WHEREAS, To help future leaders become active in the community, TSCPL has partnered with Leadership Greater Topeka, which helps veteran and rising community leaders learn skills and create relationships, and with the Candidate School, which helps aspiring government officials learn the basics of running for local office; and

WHEREAS, Instead of waiting for the community to come to them, TSCPL makes efforts to reach out to the community through bookmobiles, provide services to senior and assisted living communities, forge partnerships with community centers and cooperate with community entities to help Shawnee County residents find jobs and start businesses; and

WHEREAS, TSCPL employs five Outreach Storytellers who visit 75 daycare centers and preschools every three to five months. In support of early childhood learning programs and in partnership with Shawnee County businesses and non-profit organizations, TSCPL also plans to launch the Mobile Early Childhood Learning Center; and

WHEREAS, Through the use of forward-thinking surveys, community outreach events, board retreats and staff meetings, TSCPL is able to learn how to better serve the community; and

WHEREAS, TSCPL will continue to educate, enrich and inspire the residents of Shawnee County for years to come: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library for being named Library of the Year by Library Journal; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send 12 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Kelly.

Senate Resolution No. 1731 was sponsored by Senators Kelly, Hensley and V. Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*