

Libraries Provide — Countywide!

Heather Estrada is the new district director for the Umatilla County Special Library District

By Erin McCusker

For Go! Magazine

Heather Estrada began work Dec. 12 as the new district director for the Umatilla County Special Library District.

Estrada shared that she “is thrilled to be in this position, as she grew up in Umatilla County and has many memories of trips to the public library, story times and fun, both from her childhood years and as a parent taking her own children to the library.” After graduating from Pendleton High School, Estrada left town for college and then spent five years teaching in Boise and Portland. She came back to Pendleton in 2002 to teach in the Pendleton School District.

During that time, she completed a Master’s in Library Science. After her first child was born, she went to work at the library at Blue Mountain Community College as the Cataloging Librarian, as well as an adjunct math instructor. She has been working at BMCC ever since.

In her new position, she is very excited to be working with all 12 libraries who partner with the UCSLD in various ways. She tells that while working at the library at BMCC, she followed and kept up on library trends, but didn’t get to spend much time with the people who use and love libraries.

She feels that this job will give her the opportunity to do that, as well as to better know the communities around the district. She looks forward to dovetailing her library, teaching and math skills and experience into this position.

As I prepare to leave my position as the district director of the UCSLD, I have been reflecting on the wonderful work that occurs in our public libraries. It has been a privilege to support them over my years at the UCSLD.

During an Autumn All-Staff In-Service in November, I shared my thoughts about how essential the work of our public library staff members is to our communities. Here are a few of my comments: I began with a quote from Harriet Tubman: “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

Thank you for your dreams and your passion for helping your communities be the best that they can be through your service. The work done by the staff of our public libraries is critical to the health of our communities. It has been an honor and privilege to partner with you to ensure that our residents and guests have access to authoritative information, delightful programs and literacy building resources. The connections we create, strengthen and sustain are the definition of community.

May our connection, created in 1986, between the UCSLD and your libraries continue to succeed.

To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson: “To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

I’ll end my column by asking everyone to drop by their public library, especially if they haven’t for a while. You will be surprised at all that is going on there. Plus, you can grab a book or movie to entertain you

over the winter!

Find more information on your library at <https://www.ucsl.org/>. The mission of the UCSLD is to work in partnership with our libraries to advance and make available excellent library services, programs and continuing education opportunities for all.



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