
DATE: March 6, 2025

TO: Library Board, Pima County Public Library
Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima County Administration
Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Marissa Alcorta
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Community Engagement Report – February 2025

This month continued to be a busy one for outreach as outlined in the report. I attended the COHS graduation ceremony and gave the welcome speech on February 22nd. It was such a wonderful and heartfelt event, with many graduates bringing their family and friends to see them receive their diploma. We had some wonderful guest speakers, Supervisor Adelita Grijalva Pima County Board of Supervisors, Vice Chair, District 5; Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator, Pima County; Pi Polletta, Director of Philanthropy, Pima Library Foundation; and Valerie Hardie, Career Online High School Ambassador, Smart Horizon Career Online Education. It was a wonderful event and could not have happened without the support and planning of the CEO team.

This month we also welcomed a new team member, Niki Giammarco. Niki will be helping with programming and coordination in Workforce and Economic Development. She will be working closely with Matthew Landon.

This month I met with the Pima County Health Department, along with CDO LSM Kate DeMeester-Lane, to see how we could support them with some grant funding on their end. They have a grant that they wish to use to order books (physical and eBooks) with a focus on Public Health. They also want to make these resources available to their staff as well as the community at large. They reached out to our CDO staff, as they are experts in book ordering. CEO staff will help them with their book orders and add them to the library collection. PCHS staff will only need to get a library card to access the materials, if they don't have one already. There is also the possibility of also ordering materials for them for a mini library they can hold at PCHS. We are also happy to help our PCHS partners. This grant project is a benefit for their staff and more Public Health resources for the community to utilize.

Community Engagement Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

For the month of February, I attended the monthly Affinity Team meetings for Biblio Lotus, Many Nations, and Nuestras Raíces.

As part of our work on the Many Nations Team, my colleague and I attended The Healthy Heart event which was held at the Tohono O’odham Community College in Sells, Arizona. There was a fun run/walk held by the Tohono O’odham Community College and different booths of organizations providing resources to the community participated. We went to represent the Pima County Public Library, shared information about the library’s resources, and issued 22 library cards!

In preparation for the Graduation Ceremony of our Career Online High School Students, we decorated the meeting room with festive colors and areas where graduates and their families could take fun pictures. We wanted to make this great accomplishment extra special for the students and their families.

Marissa and I attended a Career Day event at the San Miguel High School where we were able to speak with students about our careers with the Pima County Public Library and what resources are available for them.

Latinx Community Engagement Manager – Hassael Cazesuz

This month, our team remained active in community engagement and outreach efforts, strengthening partnerships and expanding access to library resources.

On February 1st, we participated in the PACC En Español Campaign Outreach Event, where we hosted a free book giveaway and distributed informational handouts about library services and programming. I was present at the event and had the opportunity to connect directly with our Spanish-speaking community, promoting the library and its wealth of resources. This event is part of an ongoing partnership, and we are always eager to support when possible.

On February 19th, Alina and I joined a session of the Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion’s “Learn to Earn” series, where we presented in Spanish to students about library resources and services. We provided a brief walkthrough of our library website, ensuring they could navigate and access our digital resources independently. Additionally, we took the opportunity to sign students up for library cards and highlight our abundance of free learning tools. We are excited to continue visiting these classes and reinforcing the value of digital literacy within our community.

Looking ahead, our team is actively working on promotional content for social media in preparation for the Tucson Festival of Books (TFOB). With the Festival quickly approaching, we are also focused on finalizing logistics to ensure a successful and engaging experience for attendees.

Workforce and Economic Development – Matthew Landon

The Pima Library Foundation purchased 90 new hotspots for PCPL and my mid-February, we were able to catch up on the waitlist for hotspots and Chromebooks. Meaning those who now request a hotspot, or a hotspot and Chromebook together face a minimal wait time to receive their hold for these items at the branch. The hotspot and Chromebook lending programs serve rural school districts and others who lack the broadband connection or devices to access the internet and are an important part of how we address digital inclusion in Pima County.

The 2024 Career Online High School (COHS) Graduation Ceremony was February 22 at Murphy-Wilmot Library. 17 of the 29 graduates from 2024 were scheduled to attend. 181 total people have graduated from COHS since its inception with 3 new graduates both in January and February. We are grateful to the Pima Library Foundation for continuing to purchase scholarships for adults looking to achieve a high school diploma. A high school diploma opens doors for people and allows them to take advantage of employment opportunities they otherwise could not. Here in the

Community Engagement & Outreach Office, we are proud to be part of this significant milestone in their lives.

Collection Development/Support Services Library Services Manager-Kate DeMeester-Lane

We are pleased to share that our Cele Peterson Arizona Collection is getting a much-needed boost in accessibility! Many of these unique books are of interest to our larger Pima County community, but accessibility has been an issue for many. This is truly unfortunate because the focus of this collection is Southern Arizona, Pima County and the City of Tucson. Historically, this difficulty has also contributed to underutilization of the collection and the usage statistics have remained very low over the last decade.

Easy accessibility is always our goal, so this collection will be moving from closed-stacks, reference only collection into a circulating collection. Not everyone can come downtown to visit the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, but with this increased access, they will no longer need to access these materials. This will allow customers at any location to place a hold on these materials and have them taken to their branch library. When they are finished with the materials, they will be returned to the Main Library. We have a few resources that have traditionally been held as references, and we will continue to hold these items as reference only, such as our Polk City Directories.