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**For Immediate Release**



**MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**Mississippi Library Commission and Mississippi Library Association  
collaborate to raise awareness about libraries**

**Jackson, MS**

The Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) will host “Library Day” at the Mississippi State Capitol on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the First Floor Rotunda. The event will feature demonstrations of 3-D printers, LSTA Grant Projects, Talking Books, costumed characters from some favorite children’s books, and many other exciting projects and services that showcase how today’s libraries serve Mississippi’s citizens. Representatives from the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) and Friends of the Mississippi Libraries, Inc. will be joining MLC to share the news from all types of libraries in communities throughout the state.

“Libraries from across Mississippi will gather at the Capitol to have a unified voice about the exciting and innovative trends going on in libraries today with the state’s lawmakers,” said Susan Cassagne, Executive Director of MLC. “We encourage everyone who supports their local library to join us as we highlight the continued relevance of these important community connectors.”

Following Library Day activities, the Mississippi Library Association will host the first-ever Legislative Lawn Party from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Library Commission at

3881 Eastwood Drive in Jackson. This invitation only event will feature "live bluegrass music, brews donated by Lucky Town Brewing Company, and a barbecue buffet with homemade desserts," according to MLA President Molly McManus, and will provide a forum for library advocates and lawmakers to mingle in a casual atmosphere. These events will provide librarians and library supporters with an opportunity to talk with legislators about issues important to libraries and the communities they serve, including the statewide fiber network that MLC has requested that the legislature fund this year.

Mississippians who support libraries are welcome at "Library Day." This event provides an opportunity for MLC and its supporters to share information with state lawmakers about the value of libraries in their community and how libraries enhance and strengthen the state. For those who are unable to attend the event, a note or call to lawmakers is encouraged. For more information about "Library Day" or about advocating for libraries, contact MLC at 601-432-4111. MLA is asking that those wishing to attend the Legislative Lawn Party register via the MLA website.

The mission of the Mississippi Library Association is to provide professional leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

The Mississippi Library Commission supports innovative programs and initiatives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians. The agency is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, with additional funding provided through the Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), offering leadership in library services, advocacy, and training for library professionals and paraprofessionals.

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