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DAILY BRIEFS

NED YOUNG NEW APEX CO. VP

Ned Young has been promoted to vice president for the Mid-Continent Region for Apex Companies, LLC.



YOUNG

Young will be responsible for broadening the primary services Apex provides, to create a true source of turnkey environmental offerings for numerous Fortune 500 clients, primarily in the Oil & Gas industry.

In less than 15 years, Young has assisted Apex in expanding geographic coverage, from the creation of a single Tulsa office of one, to seven offices of more than 85 geologists, biologists, and engineers in Tulsa and other offices.

A native of Oklahoma, Young graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Geology.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS APPROVED BY REGENTS

Several Oklahoma State University personnel actions were approved during the OSU/A&M Board of Regents See **Briefs**, 2

Convene, collaborate, create Tulsa City-County Library focused on future

BY RALPH SCHAEFER
ralphs@tulsabusiness.com

Convene, collaborate, create. These three words are used by Gary Shaffer to describe the future of Tulsa's City-County Library system as the \$50 million Central Library renovation moves forward to a mid 2016 grand reopening.

Shaffer, as chief executive officer, is the fourth executive in that position since the facility was opened in 1965.

Others were Allie Beth Martin, Pat Woodrum and Linda Saferite.

It is Shaffer's job to oversee the transformation of Tulsa's library system well into the 21st Century and help people understand the changes.

Libraries no longer are book warehouses where people just go to read. People no longer are passively reading or filling the role as passive information seekers.

Now library patrons are taking two pieces of intellectual property and as the kids would say "mash it up," Shaffer said. Librarians, with master's degrees in library science, help customers navigate the intellectual property around them. At one point in time information was finite if a book was checked out. Now the reverse is true and it is more about finding the needle in the haystack as opposed to what it was before.

The Tulsa City-County Library system is relevant to business because of the 24 branch





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Library, from 1

about what is going on in that specific part of the world.

Most can be downloaded to the individual's device.

Shaffer uses his device to review local and national newspapers. He also found a Taiwanese newspaper he likes to read to learn about the goings-on in that part of the world that is not found in U.S. newspapers. Articles are duplicated so each publication does not have to be read closely.

"Our library services are open to large, medium and small businesses," he said. "We are open to outside companies who come here to do research and perhaps will open a headquarters or branch in Tulsa. They may not locate here, but may have an activity that will drive the local economy."

The fourth floor of the remodeled library will continue to be for businesses and the space is designated as the research center. That is where the business collections are located. The library also has a maps collection and a non-profit resource center for people starting their own non-profit organization.

"I have had people tell me they started their business right here in the library," Shaffer said. "I had another gentleman tell me he started his non-profit business here."

"Law, medicine and information about other disciplines also will be found on the fourth floor."

In addition, the research center will house the Oklahoma Collection with books specific

to Tulsa and Oklahoma history.

Business people had input on the planning.

They worked with Martha Gregory, the research librarian and participated in surveys.

It was found that people also were having meetings and expressed the desire to have coffee. The result was a coffee shop is being added as the remodeling project continues. People also will be able to bring their own coffee to the newly remodeled facility.

A STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — section is included in the new facility.

An activity space for youth and adults is being added as part of an educational section. That section will facilitate strategic planning conversations whether it is with a principal, classroom teacher or superintendent, Shaffer said. This space will be included as part of the structure rather than an add-on.

Another phenomenon in the country is people need space to make things. These are sophisticated items that includes 3D printing and filmmaking, audio engineering and creating a book. There also are more crafts being worked on today than have been seen in the past.

"The library wants to be able to help those people and we will offer the latest and greatest access across the country, Shaffer said.

Tulsa's quality library system is recognized nationally.

Each year the University of Central Connecticut ranks the most literate cities in the nation and Tulsa ranks in the top 25, he said.

The library is a key component in that ranking.

The library system itself consistently is in the top 10 in the nation. It was ranked ninth in the nation in 2013 in results that were announced in early 2014. These are the latest numbers available. The 2014 rankings are expected out soon.

Credit for the successful library system goes to the people who in 1961 voted to fund the current library system. They voted to have a "great" library system and provided the tools to support that effort.

Libraries, especially in Tulsa County, are alive and well, Shaffer continued. Each day there are 10,000 people visiting one of the 24 facilities. More than 400,000 people in the county have library cards out of the 622,000 to 623,000 population and that is a huge amount of people.

Technology is constantly changing and the Tulsa City-County system is both on the leading edge in acquisition and the wait and see mode.

While it is nice to have the newest and best available, sometimes it is necessary to wait and see the difficulties that other libraries might experience before making that acquisition, he said. Budgetary constraints also dictate when items can be purchased.

"We get compliments from visitors who say 'we have an amazing library,'" Shaffer added.

The fact that staff members are 'customer centric' is an important factor in the success, he said. The staff goes out of their way to help people. <

Library goal 'Audacious'

BY RALPH SCHAEFER
 ralphs@tulsabusiness.com

One big "audacious goal" has been set for the Tulsa City-County Library System.

That goal is to be the most valued asset in the county.

Gary Shaffer, CEO, aid the goal follows the mission, "Libraries Change Lives."

The vision for Tulsa County is that everyone works together, are all knowledgeable and everyone is reaching for his or her full potential.

These are the goals:

- Children of Tulsa County Will grow up able to compete globally.
- The library will be financially sound and an engine of economic growth for the region.
- The library will conduct business using innovation and best practices.
- The library will have a reputation as a best place to work in the region.
- The library will be a center for community reading, lifelong learning and access to information to all. <



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