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
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
Tulsa librarian named to journal's list of emerging library leaders

■ She is noted as one of 2014's Movers and Shakers.

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Teresa Runnels is the American Indian Resource Center coordinator at Zarrow Regional Library. Runnels was recently named to Library Journal's Movers and Shakers list. MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World

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Posted: Sunday, March 30, 2014 12:00 am | Updated: 7:30 am, Sun Mar 30, 2014.

By NOUR HABIB World Staff Writer | 0 comments

Teresa Runnels is a mover and shaker.

Runnels, coordinator of the Tulsa City-County Library's American Indian Resource Center, was named to Library Journal's 2014 list of Movers and Shakers. The list identifies 50 emerging library leaders from across the world.

Library CEO Gary Shaffer said Runnels is the third Oklahoman to make the list, making her among an "elite cadre" of librarians.

"It's a tremendous honor for her, it is a tremendous honor for our American Indian Resource Center and also a tremendous honor for the Tulsa City-County Library system," Shaffer said.


The list was published earlier this month, and Runnels said she was humbled to even be nominated.

Runnels has been in her position for about nine years and has overseen the expansion of the center. The collection of books, DVDs, music and other materials has now reached

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about 4,000 items about triple the size it was when she started.

The center is one of two public library American Indian resource centers in the country. The other is located in Los Angeles.

The collection has been helpful for those researching tribes and American Indian history, as well as for those who want general information, Runnels said. Soon, it will also include fiction written by American Indian authors.

The center offers a variety of programs targeting the American Indian population and the general public.

Teaching native languages has always been one of Runnels' priorities.

In her Library Journal profile, she says: "Tribal languages are the key to access to an entire world of indigenous knowledge. The language opens access to tribal histories, literature, cultures, medicinal knowledge and more."

Runnels is a member of the Sac and Fox Nation.

"We're in an urban community. A lot of people in Tulsa can't travel to their home to their nation for classes," she said.

"And more than likely, that is where all your language speakers are."

Language-teaching material is available through the center, as well as classes taught by members of the tribes.

Currently, an Osage language class is being offered.

The resource center also coordinates culture classes at several of the library branches because Runnels says it's not just the language that "makes a tribe," it's the culture.

Other programs include the American Indian Festival of Words, which this year was a monthlong series of events during March that included entertainment, educational presentations and hands-on activities for kids, such as making native comic books.

Runnels said she is happy to see continued interest in the center, with a constant flow of material being checked out of the collection and good attendance at the events.

The resource center, which was housed at Central Library, moved to Zarrow Regional Library last spring.

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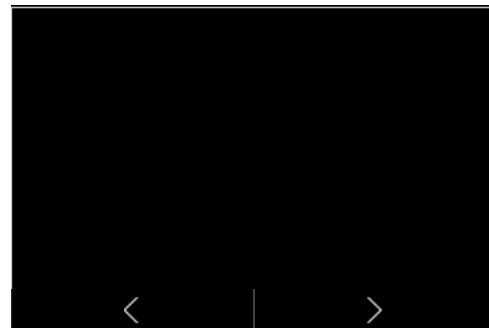
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American Indian Resource Center

Where: Zarrow Regional Library, 2224 W. 51st St.

Online: tulsalibrary.org/airc

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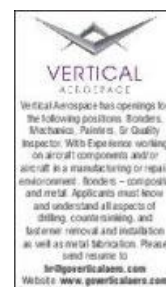
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