



NMSU Library News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Library Awards Go to Border Health Information Projects

Two borderland library health information projects were recently honored with national awards from the American Library Association. The Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!), a partnership of twenty-one libraries and health agencies, was named the 2004 ALA/Information Today, Inc., Library of the Future. The Library of the Future Award recognizes an individual library, library consortium, group of librarians or support organization for innovative planning for, applications of, or development of patron training programs about information technology in a library setting. Norice Lee of the New Mexico State University Library, who was the first chair of the BIEN! executive board, will accept a citation of achievement and a \$1,500 cash award in behalf of BIEN! at this summer's annual ALA conference.

An ALA Carnegie-Whitney award for \$5,000 was received by BIEN!'s first project director, Sylvia Ortiz of the NMSU Library. Carnegie-Whitney awards provide support for the preparation and publication of library resource guides. Ms. Ortiz and colleagues Norice Lee and Cindy Watkins, also of the NMSU Library, will prepare a guide to border health information in English and Spanish targeted for the use of community health workers, librarians, health educators, the public, students and researchers. The guide will be distributed in the borderland through BIEN! partners, and ALA Publishing will have first consideration for national publication.

BIEN! was originally envisioned by Norice Lee and Carol Brey of the El Paso Public Library. Its mission is to create opportunities to improve the health of residents of the borderland by providing health information in all formats in English and Spanish. The network has provided computers, electronic health information resources and user training in southern New Mexico, west Texas and Palomas, Mexico, for more than four years. Visit the BIEN! web site at <http://www.bienhealth.org>. Gifts to the BIEN! fund (NMSU Library fund 69032) may be sent to the NMSU Foundation, Inc., at P.O. Box 3590, Las Cruces, NM 88003-9970. For more information, contact Jeanette Smith at the NMSU Library at (505) 646-7492.