The New Mexico State University Library has been awarded $21,000 by the Rio Grande Initiative, a collaborative library education project coordinated by the University of North Texas (UNT) and funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The NMSU Library will sponsor one of approximately twenty bilingual librarians-in-training living in Borderland communities, who will work in participating libraries while they obtain their master’s degrees in Library and Information Sciences from UNT.

Dennis Daily, an employee in the Archives & Special Collections Department, has been selected as the librarian-in-training at the Library. Grant funds will support his tuition and fees, salary and project-related travel.

Daily said, “It is the perfect opportunity for me to obtain my MLIS and learn the things that others working in the Library already know. I feel very fortunate to have been chosen for this program.” His studies will include web courses and site-based institutes. Local project director Library Dean Elizabeth Titus has named Norice Lee, head of the Library’s Access Services Department, as Daily’s mentor.

“Send us librarians who will stay” has been the cry of library directors along the Rio Grande. Because the librarians-in-training currently live in border communities, the project goal is that they will continue to live and work in these communities after graduation. The new bilingual librarians will be in a good position to communicate with and meet the information needs of the Spanish speaking population in the Borderland. For more information, contact Dean Titus at (505) 646-1508.