

EDUCATION

D60, library team up for students

BY JON POMPIA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

An innovative collaboration between Pueblo City Schools (D60) and the Pueblo City-County Library District will see students have increased and easier access to the library's growing cache of physical and digital materials.

A memorandum of understanding regarding this partnership was passed by the D60 board of education during its regular monthly meeting.

At the center of this collaboration is ConnectED, a national initiative that encourages library directors to work with school leaders, librarians and city officials to provide wider access to learning resources.

Pueblo was one of about 50 communities selected to be part of the ConnectED Library Challenge.

By integrating D60 student ID numbers into the library's district accounts, every student will have instant access to library databases and materials. A student's ID number will in effect become his or her library card number.

Both students and staff will receive training in how to efficiently and effectively access resources.

"We are so pleased to be working with the library district to bring the ConnectED program to our students," said Superintendent Constance Jones. "Not only will our students be able to use the library in a traditional way, they will also benefit from learning how to access digital information in their studies."

Jones said that as utilizing technology as a primary source of learning is one of the district's major focus areas, "The



Jon Walker



Constance Jones

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ConnectED program will be an extremely effective resource for our district and students."

Jon Walker, executive director of the library district, is equally as enthusiastic.

"I'm really excited about ConnectED, to be working to strengthen local partnerships so that every child enrolled in public school will have a library card" when school starts in the fall.

While this credential will allow students access to a vast array of library books, it also will open the door to a rapidly growing collection of digital resources, including eBooks, online collections, computers and WiFi access.

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