

For Immediate Release:

ABC-CLIO Contact: Christina Ekonomi, 805.961.5129 cekonomi@abc-clio.com PR Contact: Chris Swietlik, 608.216.7300 x23, chris@cbloh.com

The Advocacy for School Libraries Special Interest Group in New Mexico Receives ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant at ALA Annual Conference

San Francisco, Calif. (June 27, 2015) – ABC-CLIO, an award-winning reference and scholarly non-fiction publisher is pleased to award The Advocacy for School Libraries Special Interest Group in New Mexico (ASL-SIG) with the 2015 ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant. Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the grant is given to AASL affiliated school library associations for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional or local levels. The grant was presented to the recipient at the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) awards ceremony during the American Library Association's (ALA) annual conference in San Francisco today.

The Advocacy for School Libraries Special Interest Group is a part of the New Mexico Library Association, representing school librarians throughout the state of New Mexico. Previously, school librarians have failed to participate in professional development opportunities because of budgetary restrictions and isolation. As a solution, the ASL-SIG has developed a yearlong plan to connect librarians with the assistance of the ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant. The ASL-SIG will begin by dividing the large state into 5 sections with appointed leaders to oversee the success of the program. Travel stipends will encourage all librarians to attend professional face-to-face conferences and workshops while webinar software will provide digital monthly contact. The ASL-SIG will simultaneously work to replicate the program in other states with similar problems, serving as mentors and sharing their steps to success. The plan ultimately strives to improve school library services for teachers, students, administrators, and parents.

The AASL Awards Ceremony is a part of the annual American Library Association (ALA) conference highlighting the best practices in school library programming. The program is a public acknowledgment and celebration of school librarians that have modeled excellence in the profession. The ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant has assisted AASL affiliated school library associations in reaching their leadership goals since 1987.

About ABC-CLIO

Since 1955, ABC-CLIO, LLC, has published award-winning print and digital resources focusing on curriculum, reference, scholarly non-fiction and professional development for teachers and librarians. The company proudly supports educators and librarians in fostering independent critical thinking, and the exploration and understanding of complex issues. Learn more at <http://www.abc-clio.com>.