

Press Release
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**Lincoln Trail Libraries System Awarded Grant for
Illinois Parent Information Network**

The Lincoln Trail Libraries System (LTLS) has been awarded a \$65,000 grant to build the Illinois Parent Information Network (NPIN Illinois). Funding will be provided by the Illinois State Library, a Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, using federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding. LTLS is working on this project with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education's (ERIC/EECE's) National Parent Information Network (NPIN). NPIN Illinois will add to NPIN's extensive resource collection on parenting and parent involvement in education by building a separate Web site with resources specific to the interests of Illinois families. This new service will provide a link between libraries, schools, and local services and programs to support parents in their roles as primary caregivers of their children and as contributors to their children's learning.

Key partners in NPIN Illinois will include the Illinois library systems and their more than 2,000 member libraries; the Illinois Family Partnership Network, which represents a variety of human service professionals across the state; the Illinois State Board of Education; the Regional Offices of Education and local school districts; and the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service.

NPIN Illinois will:

- * Collect and provide access to information about parenting education programs and other services for parents statewide;
- * Make the information available via a World Wide Web site and promotional materials in libraries and schools;

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- * Respond to specific questions from throughout the state via toll-free telephone request lines, e-mail, and mail; and
- * Present fall workshops and special events to inform and train Illinois librarians, school personnel, parents and family service agency personnel in the use of NPIN Illinois.

Lilian Katz, ERIC/EECE Director and Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Illinois College of Education, said, "These activities will make a unique and timely contribution to the field of parenting education. Such a project can only be accomplished through collaboration with many different agencies." LTLS Executive Director Jan Ison further stated, "NPIN Illinois, with its statewide interagency approach to making information available to the general public, may become a model for other states undertaking similar efforts."

For more information, contact Project Director Brenda Pacey at Lincoln Trail Libraries System, 217-352-0047 (Ext. 211), e-mail bpacey@ltnet.ltls.org, or NPIN Illinois Project Coordinator Amy Aidman, ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education, 217-333-1386, e-mail: a-aidman@uiuc.edu.

Founded in 1966, Lincoln Trail Libraries System has headquarters in Champaign and is one of 12 regional library systems in the state of Illinois. The System serves 7 academic, 53 public, 43 school districts and 17 special libraries in Champaign, Clark, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. Lincoln Trail is committed to excellence in library service and facilitates and promotes collaboration and cooperation which empowers information agencies to improve and expand access to and delivery of information resources.

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education (ERIC/EECE) is a member of the Lincoln Trail Libraries System and one of 16 Clearinghouses funded by the U. S. Department of Education's National Library of Education to build the ERIC database, the most heavily used database in the world on education-related topics. ERIC/EECE has been sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1967. The National Parent Information Network, a special project of ERIC/EECE, has been in operation since 1993.

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