

Kudos!

Ian Seibert

Ian was our point person for the E-Rate funding received by Washington County. He attended workshops and webinars to discover the ins and outs of the new E-rate program. That program went into effect in 2016 and allowed for more equipment to be reimbursed than before. The webinars and workshops were necessary because the process was changing and very cumbersome.

Ian ploughed through all of the webinars, workshops and forms to achieve success. WCFL used the money to replace all the firewalls; all the switches and all of the wi-fi equipment in all 8 locations. These new purchases will allow for better and more up-to-date security and connectivity. Ian is to be commended for his thoroughness and persistence in working with and around this time consuming and confusing process and getting us enough funds to replace all the equipment we did.

- Kathleen O'Connell

Joni Reed

An employee of the Allegany County Library System since 2008, Joni is currently the Outreach Director in the Programming Department. She creates and coordinates programming for tweens, teens, and adults in our tri-state area. She also connects with and builds relationships with local community organizations (Allegany Museum, Frostburg State University, University of Maryland Extension Office, 4-H, etc.) and businesses (AES, Kohl's, Rocky Gap, etc.) to help further the mission of the Library System. Many of these partnerships have resulted in grants, sponsorships, and program opportunities, including the widely popular LAUNCH Series, FREE science, technology, engineering, and math fun!

The LAUNCH series is designed to introduce students ages 8 and older to the important Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts that will drive the 21st century. This series connects local STEM experts with motivated young people in a program which promotes STEM education and career paths. The LAUNCH Series has been immensely popular and we are currently in our 4th iteration of LAUNCH this spring at the Washington Street Library and a 5th series is planned this fall for our newly renovated South Cumberland Library.

A full listing of the spring LAUNCH programs this spring is at:

<http://alleganycountylibrary.info/contentpages.asp?loc=134>

- Jennifer Spriggs