

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ACPL STAFF ROCKETS INTO OUTER SPACE

October 25, 2011 – Laramie, WY – The Albany County Public Library is proud to announce that Youth Services Specialist Deborah Kassner and Young Adult Specialist Laura Prestia were two of 40 librarians nationwide selected to attend the Countdown To Curiosity, and the Mars Science Laboratory - Curiosity - Mission Launch seminar presented by NASA in preparation for 2012's Year of the Solar System.

Kassner and Prestia will attend the two-day workshop complete with a VIP tour of Kennedy Space Center and "front row" seats at the launch of the Mars Science Laboratory – Curiosity - Mission to Mars. The goal of the workshop is to help librarians learn more about Mars and space science in support of next summer's reading program, "Night Sky."

According to The Lunar and Planetary Institute's press release, Countdown To Curiosity will acquaint attendees with everything they need to know about the mysterious red planet in order to bring exciting programs to their community. They will learn about how the Martian environment has changed through time; the possibility for life on Mars; past, present, and future NASA missions to Mars, including the launch of the latest robotic mission to Mars, Mars Science Laboratory / Curiosity. Scientists and educators from the Lunar and Planetary Institute and Jet Propulsion Laboratory will share space science information, resources, hands-on activities, and demonstrations developed specifically for librarians to use in their programs with children ages 8 to 13 and their families.

Originally from California, Kassner has been a guiding force for the Youth Services department since 2007. She is responsible for the songs, skits and theatrical offerings in storytimes and summer reading. Prestia, a Florida native, has co-led the Young Adult programs since 2010, planning and coordinating programs and selecting materials for the teen collection. They are thrilled with this opportunity and look forward to bringing back child-friendly space science to Albany County.

The Albany County Public Library is located at 310 S. 8th, in Laramie and is open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please call 721-2580 or visit the Albany County Library website at www.albanycountylibrary.org. Requests for accommodations from persons with disabilities must be made 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

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