



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

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Date: June 9, 2015

To: Brian Kischnick, City Manager

From: Mark Miller, Director of Economic & Community Development  
Cathy Russ, Library Director  
Phillip Kwik, Assistant Library Director

Subject: Troy Public Library Chosen as Part of MCLS Library Match Project

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The Troy Public Library is one of four Michigan libraries chosen to be a part of the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS) **Library Match Project**, underwritten by The H.W. Wilson Foundation. This project is designed to improve communication and develop relationships among libraries in Michigan and Indiana.

Troy was chosen specifically because of our commitment to staff development, resulting in superior customer service and innovative programming. This project recognizes the Troy Library as a leader in developing intra-library partnerships and resource sharing among Midwest libraries.

During the six-month project, the four participating Michigan public libraries will be paired with four public libraries of similar size and demographics in Indiana. The Troy Public Library will be matched with the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library. The other Michigan libraries selected are: Delta Township Public Library in Lansing; the Pickford Community Library, and the Peter White Public Library in Marquette.

All participating libraries will be given \$2,100 worth of video-conferencing equipment that we will use to connect, communicate and collaborate with our peer library. We will mentor one another, expand professional connections, share staff training opportunities and expertise, conduct co-marketing activities, and develop collaborative public programs. Matched libraries are required to conduct a minimum of three specific activities together. The types of programs we are currently discussing are activities by Troy's Teen Advisory Board, a joint public book discussion or author talk, and a youth storytelling program, among others.

Once the project is completed, the equipment will be owned by the participating libraries. In Troy, we hope to use the equipment to develop a Business Resource Center, to fulfill one key objective of our 2013-2015 Strategic Plan: to Expand and Strengthen Partnerships with Troy and Regional Business.



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MCLS, a nonprofit membership organization based in Lansing, works with its members libraries in Michigan and Indiana to further the reach and impact of libraries of all sizes and types.

The H.W. Wilson Foundation, based in New York, has the mission to provide financial assistance to causes having the greatest impact on improving the spirit, mind and body of the greatest number of people through aid, support and cooperation with charitable, benevolent, educational and religious institutions.