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# THE CONNECTION

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Quarterly Newsletter of the NNLM South Central Region

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## A Note from the Executive Director

BY BRIAN LEAF

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Connection*!

It's only a slight variation from the name of our monthly webinar series, but a theme I've seen since we all started working from home has been the renewal of connections. Friends have been throwing virtual parties over Zoom. A cousin and I took an online cooking class through Airbnb. It's been heartening to see the creative ways in which people are finding or developing ways to bond. But connection has always been the theme of this office. And as we've been re-tooling for Year 5, being able to strengthen relationships or renew the ones that have fallen by the wayside is important to us.

This publication is one of the ways we are looking at to better communicate our work as well as celebrate what makes each of the states in the South Central Region unique. Ultimately, it's more than just the statistics gleaned from health reports or state rankings—it's the wonderful people and institutions that we get the privilege of serving. Our work couldn't happen without you.

Please feel free to contact me or anyone on the team. Our information can be found on the last page of this newsletter. We'd love to hear from you.

# WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH WIKIPEDIA?

## WIKIPEDIA HOSTS

over 200,000 health articles



written in more than

**250 LANGUAGES**



## THESE ARTICLES ARE READ OVER

65000000000

(that's 65 billion and counting!)

**TIMES PER YEAR**



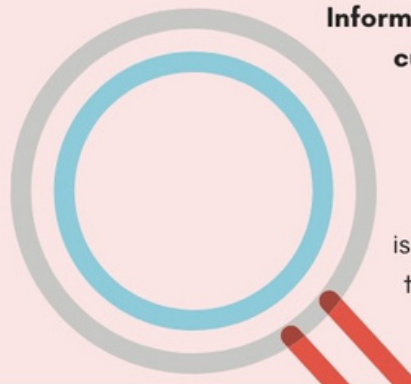
50% to 70% of physicians use  
**WIKIPEDIA**  
for health information



94% of medical students use  
**WIKIPEDIA**  
as a springboard for information

Information on Wikipedia is often hyper-current because it's maintained by editors around the clock.

Access to consumer and public health information via Wikipedia is prolific, and we need **you** (yes, you!) to help ensure continued reliability by becoming an editor!



Please join us for the first

**SCR**  
**#citeNLM**  
*edit-a-thon*  
**JUNE 26**

# Featured Network Member Q&A

SCR is a geographically huge region, and the missions of our members and professionals is highly varied. Each quarter, we will highlight the work and interests of members and professionals from throughout our region. Let's get to know each other a little bit better!

## Kelleen Maluski

### STUDENT SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT LIBRARIAN

University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center  
Albuquerque, NM - camaluski@salud.unm.edu



#### **Q: What is one big issue that currently impacts or represents your patrons/clients?**

A: The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for many of our students to access their educational materials and has made patrons feel disengaged from many resources. This has led to a massive amount of stress for everyone, especially our healthcare workers. It is my job to make sure that patrons feel engaged and supported. Adapting our outreach and engagement has been a huge part of what I am doing right now; this means looking for ways to make our new online workshops and instruction maintain a dedication to critical pedagogy and active learning techniques. It also means acknowledging our patrons

holistically, which includes understanding that work and school can feel especially overwhelming right now. We have been creating reminders of our services that aren't all about "work," such as a Library Likes Playlist and a Library Perspectives series in which our library employees discuss what they've been doing that helps them through this time.

#### **Q: What's one amazing resource you think everyone should know about?**

A: Padlet! I use Padlet to build online interactive activities for the classroom that allow me to see answers in real time. This gives me the opportunity to utilize asset-based thinking and reflective practice because I can have more open ended questions and pull out the knowledge students display through their answers and build off that in the classroom. This makes it so I am not putting anyone on the spot or pushing the classroom to answer a specific way, I see what they are saying and use their own knowledge and skills to further our discussion. Also, for development, the Library Instruction for Diverse Populations Bibliography is a must <https://acrl.ala.org/IS/instruction-tools-resources-2/pedagogy/library-instruction-for-diverse-populations-bibliography/>

#### **Q: What is something you're great at cooking? What is something you can't cook to save your life?**

A: I've just gotten into cooking since the pandemic started. My friend and I have been cooking together once a week and she is teaching me to trust my instincts more. I love making curry dishes and also this amazing Thai carrot ginger soup. I have a pretty strict anti-inflammatory diet so can't have meat (though never cared for it). If you asked me to cook a meat dish I would probably fail miserably.

# Travel Highlight: Fort Smith, AR



BY EDWARD CALDWELL, MPH, CHW  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS COORDINATOR

When you think of the “wild west,” these states automatically come to mind: Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Utah.

One state that we never mention is Arkansas. Yes, I said Arkansas! Fort Smith, Arkansas – where the old west begins. In 1875, Judge Parker was given the task by President Ulysses Grant to catch outlaws. Judge Parker would hire Bass Reeves to help him complete this task. Bass Reeves was the first African American U.S. Deputy Marshal west of the Mississippi River. Reeves was known for his unique disguises while on pursuit of fugitives. If you visited Fort Smith, Arkansas today, you would see his monument at the Ross Pendergraft Park. Fort Smith still holds its “wild west” values.

As its name suggests, Fort Smith history is rooted in military bases. Elvis Presley made international headlines there when he received his famous buzz haircut before entering the United States Army. Fort Smith, Arkansas is rich in history, and during my travels, I found some superheroes. I found some superheroes who were bigger than the *Avengers* and the *Justice League*. My first interaction with a superhero was when she picked us up from the airport. Her name is Pat Morris, the Librarian at Mercy Hospital. I never had seen someone whose heart was pure as gold. She is more than a librarian; she is the heart of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Pat serves her hospital with great joy and her love for the community is tremendous. When the community needs help securing grant funding, they call Pat. She has helped many organizations around Fort Smith receive funding through grants. I also had the chance to meet Doug Reinert, Director of Parks and Recreation. Superhero Doug is responsible for bringing outdoor fun to the city. Pat, Doug, and some other heroes helped the city of Fort Smith receive a \$950,000 grant to expand walking trails in 2019. Doug stated, “Every citizen deserves the right to safe trails.” It’s not every day that you meet remarkable people like Doug and Pat.

My first day in Fort Smith, Arkansas was mind-blowing, and I didn’t think the next day would surpass my



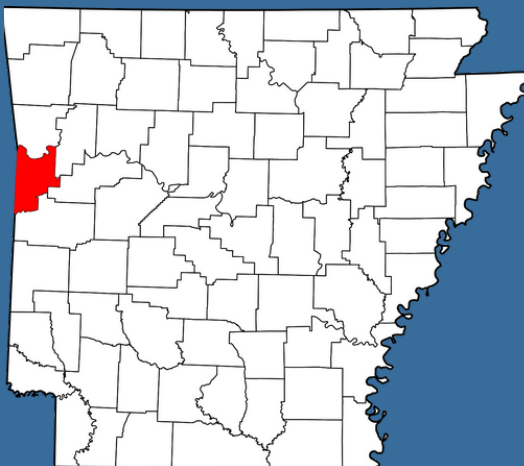
Fort Smith Lake

Image by Holly Devine for Getty



Bass Reeves

Photographer Unknown



Fort Smith is in Sebastian County, AR

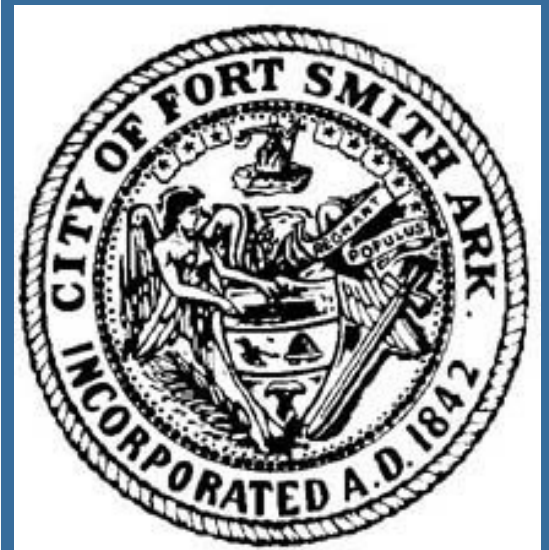
expectations. However, I was so wrong and honestly, I'm glad. After a wonderful meeting at Mercy Hospital, Pat showed us the way to Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM). At ARCOM, we met two more superheroes, Connie Manning and Sonya Lemke. Both women are health science librarians that are helping provide assistance to the next generation of healthcare providers. Connie and Sonya gave us a tour of the school, and I was in awe. Some of the classrooms gave me a nostalgic feeling of my days as a kinesiology major at UT Tyler. After the tour, we went to lunch at Rolando's, and the food was delicious. Rolando's is a Latin American cuisine restaurant with a nice cozy atmosphere and a festive interior dating back to the 1850s. I made sure to add Rolando's to my favorite food list in this city.

My time at Fort Smith was almost over, and we had one more stop. We decided our final stop would be with another superhero, Charlotte Tidwell at Antioch for Youth & Family. Antioch for Youth and Family, an all-volunteer nonprofit effort, serves Western Arkansas with community solutions through persistence and partnerships. The food pantry provides over 800,000 meals in a community where one out of five people experiences food insecurity. Charlotte and her team are outstanding.

I'm thankful for my site visit to Fort Smith, Arkansas. I learned about the value of community partnership and that librarians are priceless. Thank you all for making huge impacts on your community, and thank you for showing me how to be a vessel to my community.



Left to right: Doug, Pat, and Edward



Seal of the City of Fort Smith

We are grateful to the amazing folks in Fort Smith for hosting us earlier this year. We look forward to resuming travel; we hope to see you all sooner than later!

## Upcoming Class

Beyond an Apple a Day:  
Providing Consumer Health Information at Your Library

**MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020 - FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2020**

**AND**

**FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020 - FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2020**

Visit [NNLM.gov/calendar](https://nnlm.gov/calendar) for a complete list of offerings this quarter.

# Upcoming Webinars

Visit [NNLM.gov/calendar](https://n.nlm.gov/calendar) for a complete list of offerings this quarter.

## June

How PubMed Works: Introduction

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020  
1:00PM - 2:30PM CT

How PubMed Works: Selection

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020  
1:00PM - 2:30PM CT

### PNR Rendezvous

Still Searching for One Health:  
Information Services That Support  
Prevention of Emerging Zoonotic  
Disease

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020  
NOON - 1:00PM CT

How PubMed Works: MeSH

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020  
1:00PM - 2:30PM CT

How PubMed Works: ATM

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020  
1:00PM - 2:30PM CT

## July

I Am... Safe Zones: Gender This!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020  
8:00AM - 9:00AM CT



Join us next month!

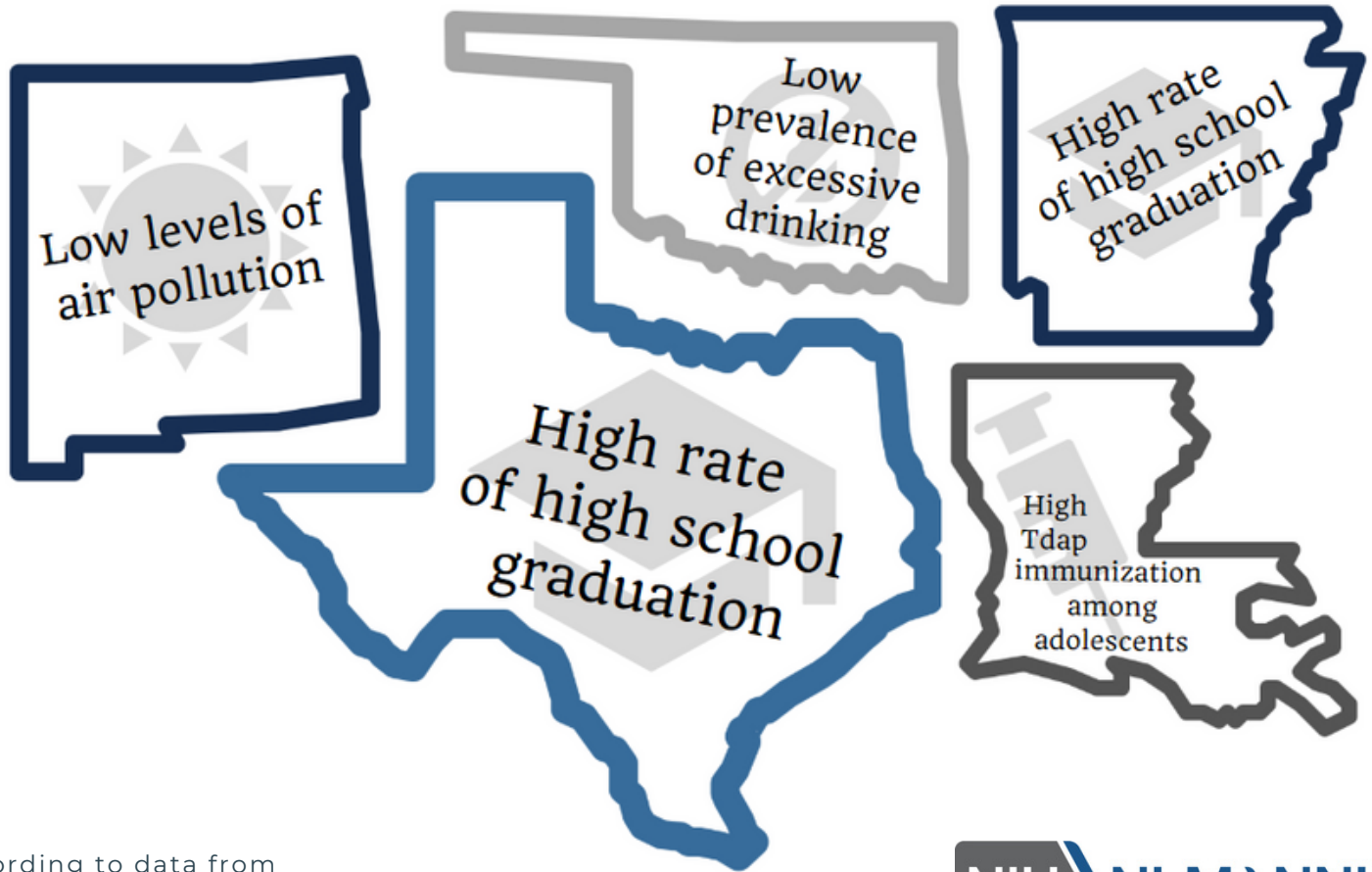
Wednesday, June 10th, 2020

8am PT / 9am MT / 10am CT / 11am ET



Porcha Johnson, CEO of *Black Girl Health*, will be speaking about the **POP THE QUESTION** initiative to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among minority women. It's sure to be a fantastic talk!

# What is the Top Health Strength in Your State?



According to data from  
America's Health Rankings  
2019 Annual Report



## The NNLM South Central Region RML team is here to serve you!

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