**Library Card Sign-Up Month 2021**For immediate release
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**Library cards empower students and fuel academic success**

Creston, IA – September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when Matilda J. Gibson Memorial Library joins the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning.

There is nothing more empowering than signing up for your own library card. Through access to technology, media resources and educational programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides people of all ages opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions.

Libraries offer everything from early literacy programs to virtual homework help and GED classes, helping transform lives and communities through education. At Gibson Memorial Library you’ll find a wide variety of educational resources and activities, including STEM/STEAM early literacy kits, healthy body, and diverse programming throughout the year and during our summer reading program.

“Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children,” said Aric Bishop, Gibson Memorial Library Director, “We have library programs that serve students of all ages and backgrounds such as our STEM/STEAM early literacy kits, a partnership between Union County Extension and the Library, as well as the training staff has been receiving for VEX IQ robotics for future programming and storytime stem packs.”

Gibson Memorial Library, along with libraries everywhere, continue to adapt and expand services to meet the evolving needs of our community. To sign up for a library card or to learn more about the library’s resources and programs, please visit <https://creston.lib.ia.us/>

This year, Marley Dias, founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks, author and executive producer, is taking on a new role as honorary chair of Library Card Sign-Up Month. In her new role, Dias will promote the value of libraries and encourage everyone to get their very own library card. During September, the Gibson Memorial Library will be hosting multiple programs, fundraising activities through the Friends of the Library and Capital Campaign and providing services and experiences for everyone in the community!

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the ALA and libraries work together in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card.

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For more information, please visit the Gibson Memorial Library website at: [www.creston.lib.ia.us](http://www.creston.lib.ia.us) and the Gibson Memorial Library Facebook page.

If you would like to support the Gibson Memorial Library, you may volunteer your time by joining: the Library Board, the Friends of the Library Board, the Capital Campaign or consider making a contribution to the Library online at their website: <https://www.creston.lib.ia.us/>

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