Delaware Libraries: We Geek the Delaware Dream

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Delaware Libraries seek Delawareans' versions of the 'Delaware Dream'

(DOVER, DEL) Sept. 5, 2012 — Through six community conversations and an interactive online forum, Delaware Libraries are asking Delawareans to define their "Delaware Dream." "The Delaware Dream can be anything — a safe community, medical advances, a new home for you and your family," said Jeffrey Bullock, Delaware Secretary of State. "We want to know what's important to *you* — your hopes, your dreams, your vision for a better life and for an even better Delaware."

The community conversations will be moderated by Dr. Bill McGowan, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension agent. They are scheduled for:

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m., at the Laurel Public Library

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6 p.m., at the Lewes Public Library

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 6 p.m., at the Harrington Public Library

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m., at the Dover Public Library

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m., at the Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library in Odessa

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m., at the Newark Free Library

At the <u>Delaware Dream Interactive Forum</u>, Delawareans are encouraged to summarize their own dreams and "vote" to show support for dreams submitted by others. America Speaks, a Washington-based nonprofit that promotes sustained citizen engagement and public deliberation on community issues through online and face-to-face interaction, is moderating the interactive forum.

The statewide *We Geek the Delaware Dream* is a component of the national "Geek the Library" campaign, and showcases libraries' ongoing role in helping Delaware become an even more vibrant and prosperous place where all dreams are realized. All the Delaware dreams collected this fall will help Delaware Libraries and their partners facilitate learning opportunities and community collaborations meant to enable individuals and communities to maximize unique talents (whatever they geek!) and achieve the Delaware Dream. This will lead to future development of library services and programs on topics of greatest value to Delawareans.

"Libraries are the heart of the community, well positioned to facilitate individual ingenuity and community collaboration as we realize our dreams for Delaware," Norman said. Society is evolving at the local, national and global levels, and libraries are part of collaborative networks that enable communities to transform themselves to achieve full potential," Norman said.

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About Geek the Library:

Geek the Library is a national community public awareness campaign aimed at spreading the word about the vital and growing role of your public library, and to raise awareness about the critical funding issues many U.S. public libraries face. The campaign is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is sponsored by OCLC, a nonprofit library cooperative that provides services to libraries.

The statewide *We Geek the Delaware Dream* is a component of the national "Geek the Library" campaign, and showcases libraries' ongoing role in helping Delaware become an even more vibrant and prosperous place where all dreams are realized. *We Geek the Delaware Dream* events include community conversations, an online forum, Money School financial empowerment workshops, and author visits and Children's story times to honor the Military who protect our freedom. Visit <u>delawarelibraries.org/geek</u> for the full schedule of events.

About Delaware Libraries:

All 32 county, municipal, and independent public libraries throughout Delaware collaborate to offer free 24/7 access to the online catalog (delawarelibraries.org) and Ask a Librarian Delaware; free access to Wi-Fi and computers/internet with the fastest broadband speed in the nation; free access to ebooks, jobs databases, homework resources, audio content, and DVDs; free informal training for patrons, community partnerships, and much more to support Delawareans in their lifelong learning interests.