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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Library Foundation accepting grant applications

San Luis Obispo, CA — For the third consecutive year, the Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Libraries will be offering challenge grants with funds from the Barbara Baltimore Library Endowment.

Grants will be awarded to programs and projects that promise to be of lasting benefit to County libraries. Applicants may include County Friends of the Library groups, library staff, community service organizations, and individuals with a special interest or expertise in libraries or information literacy. Collaboration among these applicants is encouraged.

Applicants should demonstrate the intention to obtain matching funds, which is consistent with the original intent of Barbara Baltimore. “She wanted County residents to be inspired by her generosity and say, ‘If she can do it, so can I,’” explained former Foundation president, Robert Alberti. “If you have a great idea to improve your library, donations to your project will double when matched by funds from the Barbara Baltimore Library Endowment.”

Last year, alone, the Foundation granted about \$ 15,000 to Friends of the Library organizations and librarians. Projects funded by the grant included: reconfiguring and enhancing of the teen section at the Arroyo Grande library; helping to purchase AWE Early Literacy Stations for Morro Bay and San Miguel branches; and assisting the Shell Beach library to acquire a self-check station.

The deadline to submit a grant application is September 30, 2014. Applications are available on the Foundation website at www.slolibraryfoundation.org, or by calling (805) 546-1392.

About the Barbara Baltimore Library Endowment

Long-time San Luis Obispo resident Barbara Baltimore bequeathed \$194,000 to the Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries in 2011. Barbara was a retired biochemist, as well as avid library supporter and volunteer. Hard-working and frugal, she lived simply and left no heirs.

According to Barbara, her desire was to ensure the future of county libraries by funding "priority needs of the San Luis Obispo County Library system as identified by the Foundation." She also hoped to inspire other County residents to support and value their public libraries.

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