

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 20, 2014

**TO:** Dave Corliss, City Manager

**FROM:** Brad Allen, Executive Director, Lawrence Public Library

**RE:** Nearing completion of library building project

As we near the completion of the Lawrence Public Library renovation and expansion project, I wanted to take a moment to update you on how things have been going since our reopening on July 26. On our opening day, 12,000 people visited us. Over 150,000 people have been through the library since.

We've seen great use of our new meeting rooms and larger auditorium. Our larger children's spaces are bustling with the vibrant energy of young families. We have seen considerably significant increases in checkout, most notably of children's materials.

Here is a look at how September 2014 compared to September 2013:

User visits up 55%: 39,777 vs 25,693

New borrower cards issued up 96%: 1060 vs. 540

Youth program attendance up 160%: 2641 vs. 1014

Program attendance up 31%: 3420 vs. 2617

Total circulation up 10%: 114,551 vs. 104,227

Circulation of youth materials in particular up 24%: 37052 vs. 29937

Public meeting room reservations: 80 (no meeting rooms available in 2013)

Besides just these numbers, the one thing I will say as I walk around this new library, is I see a boost in civic pride. This town has always loved its library, and now there is so much more to celebrate and love. It's a good day to live in Lawrence, Kansas.