



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

It was a full room at the Lied Imperial Public Library June 3, when 28 people from southwest Nebraska learned how to be better presenters and trainers.

Thanks in part to a state grant and other financial support, the day-long course was free to participants.

While there is no obligation to the participants, it is hoped that those coming out of the course will have an effect on the region's business capacity and, thereby, help build its economic base.

"We have a lot of individuals in our region with unique expertise, and this course provided a forum to help develop those skills," said Leslie Carlholm, a course participant who also helped set the session up in Imperial.

Leanne MacKenzie of the greater Chicago area served as course presenter, and covered a wide range of techniques for giving better presentations and training people.

Participants learned how to put together a more effective presentation and getting participants more involved in the training.

MacKenzie offered "tidbits" to remember when working with people from different walks of life, gender and age.

They also learned their own personality types and how that can be used in effective presentations, Carlholm noted.

"When completing the course, it is hoped the participants become better presenters, trainers and coaches," Carlholm added.

In turn, that makes the communities they live in better places to be, with a goal to add positively to the economy of southwest Nebraska, Carlholm added.

Mackenzie, M.Ed., is a motivational speaker, career coach and author. Her books include, "Can Women in Educational Administration Have it All?" and "He Got Transferred—Now What Do I Do?"

She is also a contributor to "Ordinary Women ... Extraordinary Success," now in its second edition. In the last six years, she has been in all 50 states, eight provinces and Puerto Rico

The sponsoring agencies of the workshop also held a "Train the Trainer" course in North Platte on June 4.

The course was co-sponsored by the Mid-Plains Community College Center for Enterprise, Chase-Perkins Partnership, the cities of Grant, Imperial and Benkelman, AmFirst Bank of Hayes Center and the Southwest Nebraska Community Nebraska Betterment Corporation.

The project was funded in part by a Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, which was administered by the Nebraska Rural Development Commission.