

Sustaining Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians

Overview

The Sustaining Leaders Academy (SLA), a prototype collaboration between the **Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA)** and the **University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program**, is funded through a **grant from the Library Services and Technology Act by Commonwealth Libraries, Pennsylvania Department of Education**. SLA will deliver focused **professional development for 25 mid-career librarians** to assure a systematic succession plan so that students in every region of Pennsylvania will have strong and effective school library programs in their schools led by exemplary librarians and local, regional, and state professional associations will have leaders in the coming decades. SLA will mentor these librarians who were selected from a **robust pool of applicants** through a rubric-based selection process in which applicants were not identified by name or position.

Through a **year-long series of live and monthly virtual competency-building learning experiences**, Sustaining Leaders (SL) will be mentored by retired, experienced leader-librarians and coach-practitioners to:

- Revitalize and update the leadership competencies they need to communicate, collaborate, develop, and sustain working relationships with multiple constituencies with differing priorities in changing environments; and
- Assess progress in their library programs and their own success in partnering with administrators and teachers to help students achieve academic success.

The Sustaining Leaders Academy will offer **innovative, immersive professional development experiences** for each SL to:

- Renew, strengthen, and polish individual leadership competencies;
- Capitalize on developing the most effective individual leadership style based on perceived and actual skill-set and strengths;
- Assess strengths and areas to development realistically, reflect and affirm a plan for continued professional development, and enhance confidence.

Sustaining Leaders will meet their fellow participants and their mentors at an Orientation during the PSLA Annual Conference on May 12, 2016. From July 11 through July 13, 2016, SLs will engage in a four-day **Orientation Immersion** and participate in the PSLA Leadership meeting at Hershey Lodge. These live sessions will be followed by participation in the **Virtual Academy**, a series of monthly competency-refining experiences from September 2016 through April 2017. SLA will culminate with presentations and a graduation ceremony at the 2017 PSLA Conference.

School librarians can lead from the middle as effective **“teacher leaders”** within their schools and their districts and serve as leaders in their professional associations as well. Most importantly, they can speak as part of this education community for the right of all PA students to have access to an effective school library program to help them meet *PA Core Standards* and succeed academically. Pennsylvania needs school library leaders who can accomplish all three challenges.

Sustaining Leaders 2016-2017

Sustaining Leader	School	School District	IU
Brackbill, Dustin	Mt. Nittany Elementary School	State College Area	10
Casey, Megan	Moore & Elroy Elementary Schools	Brentwood Borough	3
Crans, Kristen	Concord Elementary School	Garnet Valley	25
Dahlstrom, Sue	Wayne Elementary School	Radnor Township	25
Douglas, Kristin	Hempfield High School	Hempfield	13
Emerson, Aimee Lin	Floyd C. Fretz Middle School	Bradford Area	9
Fornari, Karen	O'Hara Elementary School	Fox Chapel Area	3
Fox, Sue	Washington Jr/Sr High School	Washington	1
Hedderman, Heather	Wattsburg Elementary Center	Wattsburg	5
Henshaw, Graig	Maple Avenue Middle School & Littlestown High School	Littlestown Area	12
Kelly, Mary Grace	Fort Couch Middle School	Upper St. Clair	3
Leonard, Krista	H Austin Snyder Elementary School	Sayre Area	17
Lesoine, Heather	Centerville & Landisville Elementary Schools	Hempfield	13
Lindemann, Leah	Blackhawk High School	Blackhawk	27
Matjasic, Adrienne	East High School	West Chester Area	24
McGuire, Beth	Wendover Middle School	Hempfield Area	7
Millard, Jill	Shaler Area Middle School	Shaler Area	3
Pagano, Kathleen	Council Rock High School North	Council Rock	22
Pennucci, Stephanie	Garnet Valley High School	Garnet Valley	25
Pickett, Amy	Ridley High School	Ridley	25
Saltzer, Vickie	Gettysburg High School	Gettysburg Area	12
Saylor, Rita	Wallenpaupack High School	Wallenpaupack	19
Shenefiel, Beth	Eden Hall Elementary School	Pine Richland	3
Varga, Caitlin	Wilson Area High School	Wilson Area	20
Woudenberg, Cara	Methacton High School	Methacton	23

Sustaining Leaders Academy Director: Mary K. Biagini, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

Mentor/Leaders: John Emerick, Carol Heinsdorf, Deb Kachel, Cindy Keller, D'nis Lynch, Bob McConnell, Sally Myers

Coach: Dr. Sue Long, assisted by Jane Farrell