

Mini Regional Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians Overview

Funded by the PA Department of Education through a Library Services & Technology Grant

The Mini Regional Leaders Academy (MRLA), the fifth prototype collaboration between the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) and the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program (SLCP) has been sustained and is funded through a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) by Commonwealth Libraries, Pennsylvania Department of Education.

MRLA is an **innovative, immersive professional development experience** designed to strengthen and support librarians in PA schools and in PSLA, to assure that all Pennsylvania students will have strong and effective school library programs led by librarians who are leaders in their schools and their geographic regions, as well as in their professional associations. Participants are charged with spreading awareness among stakeholders of the essential role school libraries play in K-12 student learning and achievement.

MRLA is based on the successful models of the Emerging, Sustaining, and Regional Leaders Academies. MRLA participants will lead in implementing the PA School Library Communicators Network across three PA regions (East, Central, and West) encompassing nine PA geographic districts, 29 Intermediate Units, 67 counties, and 500 school districts. These leaders will be key in carrying out the grant's **mission of Connect, Communicate, and Create Community among the school librarians of Pennsylvania.**

Participants--selected competitively from a robust pool of applicants from across Pennsylvania--will learn from a team of like-minded, energetic, and experienced mentors to vitalize the leadership, communication, interpersonal, and presentation competencies they need to sustain working relationships in changing school environments with multiple constituencies with differing priorities.

MRLA Leaders will:

- Consult with their mentors to conduct their own Self-Assessments and plan Personalized Learning Experiences (PLE) to carry out in their libraries during the 2018-19 school year;
- Participate in the three-day **Leadership Immersion Experience** on June 19-20-21, 2018, in Chambersburg, PA.
- Participate in the three-day PLE **Application Experience** and in the **PSLA Summit** on July 10-11-12, 2018, in Hershey, PA.
- Participate in the MRLA **Virtual Academy**, a series of four competency-refining experiences offered through interactive video conferencing provided by the University of Pittsburgh from May through September 2018.

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.

Mary K. Biagini, PhD
Project Director, Mini Regional Leaders Academy

Mini Regional Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians MRLA Leaders, 2018

MRLA Leader	School	School District	IU	County
Aranyos, Megan	Burrell High School	Burrell	7	Westmoreland
Beckman, Sarah	Washington Elementary School	Mt. Lebanon	3	Allegheny
Breeden, Sharon	Harding, Henry Houck & Southeast Elementary Schools	Lebanon	13	Lebanon
Burns, Robin	Salisbury High School	Salisbury	21	Lehigh
Conger, Janice	Wissahickon Middle School	Wissahickon	23	Montgomery
Crider, Amy	Greencastle-Antrim Primary School	Greencastle Antrim	12	Franklin
DeMaria, Sarah	Mountville Elementary & Landisville Intermediate Center	Hempfield	13	Lancaster
deVries, Leslie	Shanksville-Stoneycreek Schools	Shanksville-Stoneycreek	8	Somerset
Hay, Christy	Rockwood Area Elementary Building & Junior/Senior Building	Rockwood Area	8	Somerset
Hayes, Kathleen Butler	South Philadelphia High School	Philadelphia	26	Philadelphia
Helwig, Samantha	Dover Area High School	Dover Area	12	York
Holmes, Angelia	Franklin & Downey Elementary Schools	Harrisburg	15	Dauphin
Hugo, Courtney	Danville Area High School	Danville Area	16	Montour
Koishal, Jennifer	Greenwood Elementary & Middle School/High School	Greenwood	15	Perry
Lamont, Donna	Ligonier Valley Middle & High School	Ligonier Valley	7	Westmoreland
Linsenmann, Caitlin	March & Forks Elementary Schools	Easton Area	20	Northampton
Monsell, Arica	Mifflin County High School	Mifflin County	11	Mifflin
Neely, Jacquelyn	Keystone Oaks High School	Keystone Oaks	3	Allegheny
Pekelnicky, Ashley	Canton Elementary School & Canton Jr/Sr High School	Canton Area	17	Bradford
Rizzolino, Cindy	Butz, Shafer, & Lower Nazareth Elementary Schools	Nazareth Area	20	Northampton
Scholl, Catherine	Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr	Independent	25	Delaware
Wentling, Jennifer	Sharpsville Area Elementary, Middle & High Schools	Sharpsville Area	4	Mercer
White, Heather	Clear Run Intermediate School	Pocono Mountain	20	Monroe

2017-18 Mini Regional Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians

MRLA Staff

Steering Group

Mary Kay Biagini PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Director ▪ Project Director: Regional Leaders Academy, Sustaining Leaders Academy, Emerging Leaders Academies ▪ Associate Professor & Director, School Library Certification Program, School of Computing and Information, University of Pittsburgh ▪ PSLA Outstanding Contributor, 2007
Deb Kachel MS in LS SupvCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentor, Coach, Instructor, and Team Leader ▪ Mentor & Instructor, Regional Leaders Academy, Sustaining Leaders Academy, & Emerging Leaders Academy ▪ Instructor, Antioch University, WA ▪ Instructor, MS in School Librarianship McDaniel College, MD ▪ Instructor, School Library & Information Technologies Graduate Program, Mansfield University, 2000-15 ▪ American Association of School Librarians Distinguished Service Award, 2014 ▪ PSLA Outstanding Contributor, 2001 ▪ Librarian, Ephrata High School (Retired) ▪ PSLA Outstanding School Library District, Ephrata School District, 2007
Cindy Keller MLS SupvCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentor, Coach, Instructor, and Team Leader ▪ Mentor, Regional Leaders Academy, Sustaining Leaders Academy, & Emerging Leaders Academy 2 ▪ Instructor, MS in School Librarianship, McDaniel College, MD ▪ Instructor, School Library & Information Technologies Graduate Program, Mansfield University, 2000-15 ▪ PSLA Outstanding Contributor, 2003 ▪ Library Supervisor, Chambersburg Area School District (Retired)
Nancy Latanision MLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentor, Coach, Instructor, and Team Leader ▪ Mentor, Regional Leaders Academy ▪ Instructor, Libraries and Learning Technologies, Kutztown University ▪ Regional Trainer, Educator Effectiveness System ▪ PSLA President, 2008-2010; PSLA Distinguished Contributor, 2018 ▪ Librarian, Susquehanna Twp. School District (Retired)
D'nis Lynch MLS SupvCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assistant Director, Mentor, Coach, and Team Leader ▪ Mentor and Team Leader, Regional Leaders Academy, Sustaining Leaders Academy & Emerging Leaders Academies ▪ Practicum Supervisor, School Library Certification Program, University of Pittsburgh ▪ Library Curriculum Leader K-12 and International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme Coordinator ▪ Upper St. Clair High School, Upper St. Clair School District (Retired) ▪ Upper St. Clair High School Academics Hall of Fame, 2003 ▪ PSLA Outstanding School Library District Program, Upper St. Clair School District, 1995

Mentors, Coaches, and Team Leaders

John Emerick MLS SupvCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentor, Coach, and Team Leader ▪ Mentor and Team Leader, Sustaining Leaders Academy and Emerging Leaders Academy 1 & 2 ▪ PSLA Outstanding Contributor, 1999 ▪ Director of School Library Services, Commonwealth Libraries, PA Department of Education (Retired)
Carol Heinsdorf MS in LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentor, Coach, and Team Leader ▪ Mentor and Team Leader, Sustaining Leaders Academy and Emerging Leaders Academy 1 & 2 ▪ National Board Certified Librarian, School District of Philadelphia (Retired)
Sally Myers MS in LS SupvCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentor, Sustaining Leaders Academy ▪ Mentor and Team Leader, Regional Leaders Academy, Sustaining Leaders Academy & Emerging Leaders Academies ▪ Past President, PSLA; PSLA Outstanding Contributor, 2000 ▪ Adjunct, School Library Certification Program, University of Pittsburgh (Retired) ▪ Secondary Technology Coordinator and Librarian, Penn Hills School District (Retired)
Sandra Reilly MLIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coach ▪ Emerging Leader, 2014-2015 ▪ IU 20 Network Coordinator, PA School Library Communicators Network ▪ Librarian, Pleasant Valley High School, Pleasant Valley High School

5/8/2018 2:36 PM