

The Emerging Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians 2 2015-2016 “Leading from the Middle”

The Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) is a prototype collaboration between the **Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA)** and the **University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program**. ELA2, 2015-2016, is funded through a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act by Commonwealth Libraries of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This second ELA will deliver focused professional development to ensure exemplary school librarian leaders for every region of Pennsylvania. ELA will mentor and coach 22 school librarians early in their careers who demonstrate leadership potential to serve as educational leaders in their schools and professional associations. These 22 librarians are the Emerging Leaders (EL). They were selected from a robust pool of applicants through a rubric-based selection process in which applicants were not identified by name or position.

In a **year-long series of monthly live and virtual competency-building learning experiences**, mentors who are retired, experienced leader librarians and coach expert practitioners will help the ELs to:

- Build, enhance, and sharpen the competencies they need to communicate, collaborate, develop and sustain relationships with multiple constituencies with differing priorities;
- Plan for change; and
- Assess progress in their library programs and their own success in partnering with teachers to help students achieve academic success.

The Emerging Leaders Academy will:

- Emphasize building, strengthening, and polishing the EL’s individual leadership competencies and leading from the middle;
- Capitalize on developing each EL’s most effective individual leadership style based on perceived and actual skill-set and strengths and build confidence to accept individual style;
- Rely on the EL’s realistic personal assessment of strengths and progress, with mentor reflection, support, and affirmation and with expert instructor/coaches leading the learning activities to develop effective leadership competencies.

Emerging Leaders will meet their fellow participants, mentors, and coaches at the **Mentor Match Ceremony** during the PSLA Annual Conference on April 30, 2015. From July 19 through July 22, 2015, ELs will immerse themselves in a four-day **Orientation Immersion** held at Hershey Lodge and participate in the PSLA Leadership meeting. These live sessions will be followed by The **Virtual Academy**, a series of competency-building exercises conducted each month from August 2015 through April 2016. ELA will culminate with presentations and a graduation ceremony at the 2016 PSLA Conference.

School librarians can lead from the middle as effective “teacher leaders” within their schools and their districts. They can serve as leaders in their professional associations as well. Most importantly, they can speak as part of this professional 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 a new generation of school library leaders who can accomplish all three challenges.

**Emerging Leaders Academy for PA School Librarians 2
2015-2016 Participants**

Emerging Leader	School	School District
Avanzato, Beth	Marlborough Elementary School	Upper Perkiomen
Bozievich, Anne	Friendship Elementary School	Southern York County
Byrnes, Coreena	Red Lion Area Junior High School	Red Lion Area
Corrieri, Kayse	Susquehannock High School	Southern York County
Dalessandro, Courtney	North Allegheny Intermediate High School	North Allegheny
Frazier, Sara Cantor	Donegal High School	Donegal
Gray, Rebecca	George Washington Elementary School	Bethel Park
Huzzard, Jessica	McCormick & Allard Elementary Schools	Moon Area
Kelly, Megan	Evans City & Haine Middle Schools	Seneca Valley
Kubiak, Lauren	Butler Junior High School	Butler Area
Mader, Cassie	Hoover & Lincoln Elementary Schools	Mt. Lebanon
Maloskey, Marybeth	Fayetteville & Grandview Elementary Schools	Chambersburg Area
Martin, Laura	B. Reed Henderson High School	West Chester
Meckes, Rachel	Susquehannah Twp Middle School	Susquehannah
Morein, Lisa	Charter High School for Architecture + Design	Philadelphia (Charter)
Neely, Ruth	Sewickley Academy Upper School	Sewickley Academy (Independent)
Parkinson, Erin	Lincoln Jr./Sr. High School	Ellwood City
Ritter, Kristi Addleman	Waynesboro Area Middle & High Schools	Waynesboro Area
Stout, Bethany	Manchester Academic Charter School	Pittsburgh (Charter)
Ward, Laura	Fox Chapel Area High School	Fox Chapel Area
Wetzel, Michelle	Radnor High School	Radnor Township
Widdersheim, Rachel	Hopewell High School	Hopewell Area

**Mary K. Biagini, PhD, Emerging Leaders Academy Director
University of Pittsburgh**

**Eileen Kern, PSLA Liaison to ELA
PSLA Past President**

Mentors: John Emerick, Marg Foster, Carol Heinsdorf, Deb Kachel, Cindy Keller, D'nis Lynch, Bob McConnell, Sally Myers