

School Librarians Leadership Academy

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) and the University of Pittsburgh School Library Certification Program announce the School Librarians Leadership Academy, funded by a seventh Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant awarded by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries of the PA Department of Education.

This 2020 Academy will offer 18 PA school librarians the opportunity to expand their leadership, communication, interpersonal, and presentation skill-set. The SLLA model builds on the successful prototypes of the eight previous Leaders Academies, in which 125 librarians from across Pennsylvania have participated since 2014 and have taken on new responsibilities in their school districts, built peer and mentor networks of support and affirmation for themselves, and become officers and committee chairs in PSLA.

If you're a school librarian working in Pennsylvania with at least one year of experience (including the 2019-2020 school year), PSLA and the University of Pittsburgh have a "once-in-a-professional-lifetime" professional development opportunity for you. The Academy, which will be offered in a combination of face-to-face meetings and video conferencing, will help you:

- Build and strengthen your content, interpersonal, communication, presentation, and leadership skill-set as part of a cohort of like-minded, supportive librarians mentored by experienced librarians; and
- Gain professional confidence to position yourself as a recognized librarian leader in your school and school district as well as in your professional associations.

Please consider applying to participate as a School Librarian Leader and gain the benefits of an eight-month learning experience to build and strengthen the most important competencies needed by school librarians to "lead from the middle." You'll be mentored by highly experienced librarians and become a valued member of an outstanding team of PA school librarians identified as contributors in their schools, districts, regions, and the profession. Your mentor will help you assess your library situation, establish realistic priorities, and plan an effective library program that will help teachers teach and students learn.

If you're a solo librarian in your school district, serve multiple schools or multiple grade levels, teach in a subject area in addition to serving as librarian, and/or are new to the profession or a teacher who has pivoted from the classroom to the library without much preparation, we encourage you to consider applying.

Since 2014, 125 PA school librarians have participated in eight Academies and

The Academy will be held from February through September 2020. The application deadline is Friday, February 7, 2020, and applicants will be notified of their status no later than Friday, February 14, 2020. To be considered for SLLA, please complete the application on this page and submit it along with your resume, and the signed Administrator Form.

The information you need, including the application and form, is here. We encourage you to share information about the School Librarians Leadership Academy with your principal. If you need more information, please contact Dr. Mary Kay Biagini: biagini@pitt.edu

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