

Division Report to ALA Council and ALA Executive Board American Association of School Librarians

Jennisen Lucas, AASL President 2021-2022

Once Upon a Time...

...in the year of our Land, 2021-2022, in the ALA realm known as AASL, there were transformations, transmogrifications, collaborations, innovations, and growths of relations. Of course, not everything can always be rainbows and butterflies, so the land of AASL also weathered storms of censorship, misunderstandings, and exhaustion. This year, as an organization, AASL has focused on sharing our stories, and we are excited now to share them with you.

Leadership

Every story must have a beginning, so let us set the stage with a background story about our Leadership. In 2020-21, AASL redesigned our 20-person Board of Directors with a six member Executive Committee structure to be a nine member Board of Directors that acts as the Executive Committee. The new leadership structure includes the Immediate Past President, President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Division Councilor, Three Competency-Based Directors-At-Large, and the Executive Director (ex-officio). The competencies of the Directors-At-Large are chosen by the Leadership Development Committee to ensure that our leadership has strong advice from specialists in areas of our strategic plan (leadership activation, educational policy, and research) as well as perspective from the types of school libraries (public, independent, supervisors, educators).



As has everyone since the Great World Closing of the year 2020, we have been working virtually and rethinking normal work flows in a completely online environment. Taking advantage of gathering in Salt Lake City for the AASL National Conference, we held our first in-person Board Retreat since the restructuring and focused on creating a new culture for working together. Incorporating Responsive Classroom experiences, we built relationships, trust, and communication between



Board members. As a result, our Board has been able to navigate difficult conversations this year without compromising working relationships.

Leaders espousing the **Core Values** of Learning; Innovation; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion; Intellectual Freedom; and Collaboration populate the realm of AASL. Those engaged in leadership of this mighty Division empower fellow leaders to transform teaching and learning (**Mission**) and recognize every school librarian is a leader; every learner has a school librarian (**Vision**).

And now, please join me on a memory walk through this remarkable story-filled year as I reminisce about the adventure of the 2021-2022 AASL Presidency.

STRATEGIC PLAN

A strategic plan, developed in 2019, guides the member leaders of AASL in achieving our Mission and Vision. This plan focuses on Leadership Activation, Educational Policy and Research, and for our operations throughout the 2021-2022 year, AASL has continued the focus in all three areas, as outlined below.

Leadership Activation: AASL builds capacity for leadership at all levels.

As stated in AASL Standards for the role of the school librarian, all school Librarians are leaders making leadership activation paramount. We shared a little about the leadership of AASL above, and as a result of our restructuring, our amazing By-Laws Committee is working diligently through a comprehensive review and update of policies to reflect the new practices. Other hard-working committees are focusing on creating resources to promote Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Standards crosswalks, and other ideas for promoting school librarianship. Citizens of AASL share their voices and stories through [Town Halls](#), [Knowledge Quest Blog](#) Posts and Journal Articles, publications, presentations, etc. posted in the AASL Learning Library (ALL) as a member benefit. We encourage member leaders to speak up, speak out and stand strong in leadership roles of all kinds. AASL members are encouraged to join leadership roles in local and state school library associations as well as ALA and other related professional organizations. In the upcoming year, AASL is represented by four members of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee as well as several members of ALA Council and one on the ALA Executive Board.

AASL member leaders sponsored and collaborated on two **Resolutions** brought to and passed by ALA Council this year: *Resolution to Promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Efforts in AASL While Addressing Historical Effects of Racism (ALA CD#52)* , and *Resolution to Support School and Youth Services Librarians Facing Increased Intellectual Freedom Challenges (ALA CD#51)*.



One of the most important ways that AASL leaders activate member leadership is by attending, in-person when possible, the AASL Chapter Conferences. These in-person visits are invaluable ways to reach our members, encourage new membership that promotes their professional learning and leadership goals, and allows them to see that organizational leadership is not out of their reach. These visits also give the leadership active data from our local leaders that inform AASL as to what is happening at a local level. We could not possibly maintain the dynamic symbiotic relationship between the national organization of AASL and the state school library organizations without this component of our plan. You will hear more in our section below about our leadership tours.

Educational Policy: AASL influences local, state, and national policy to ensure that school libraries are well-funded and fully staffed with full-time, certified school librarians and dedicated support personnel.

OMG! What a year this has been! My brave and loyal colleagues of the School Library Realms around this country have been working so hard to spread the message about what school libraries do for our learners and how school librarians create safe spaces for all students, regardless of race, religion, orientation, belief systems, gender identity, socioeconomic status, academic ability or comfort, home lives, etc. This very sense of safety has been targeted this year by the very introduction of various educational policies in local school districts, communities, states, and federal organizations. AASL stands firmly behind all of the School Librarians facing these attacks and follows the legislation, providing a voice whenever we see an opening for us to be heard. Throughout this crisis of censorship and the cultural war on our very learners, AASL leaders continue to call attention to the decline in school librarians, the equity issue this decline is causing for our most vulnerable and marginalized learners, and the National Standards which we proudly support to create learners who are proficient in Inquiry, Inclusion, Collaboration, Curation, Exploration and Engagement.

Research: AASL advances research that informs school librarian practice.

Research: the very heart of educational practice and librarianship! Research is strong and ongoing in the realm of AASL. This year, by popular demand, our Board of Directors has increased the number of editorial board members for our SLR research publication: *School Library Research*.

AASL sponsors two Emerging Leaders every year, and during 2021-2022, five of ALA's Emerging Leaders (all school librarians!) collaborated to create a guide to the Curate Shared Foundation in our Standards. Their final products will be available soon, but I have gotten a chance to "sneak peak," and they are FABULOUS! I am very much looking forward to sharing



TRANSFORMING LEARNING

American Association of School Librarians
A Division of the American Library Association

www.aasl.org

Creating Digital Curators Seeking Diverse Perspectives Activity Guide with all corners of the AASL realm! There is not yet a link to this amazing guide, infographic, and resource matrix, so you will just have to tune into to [AASL's Standards Portal](#) in the near future to see these great resources!

Speaking of research and stories: it is so amazing when they merge! AASL member leaders have authored several publications to be published this year in conjunction with ALA Editions to help their colleagues learn and grow!

AASL Publications – Published since July 2021		
Title/Topic	Author(s)	Release Date
<i>Include</i> (Shared Foundations series)	Julie Stivers	September 2021
<i>Explore</i> (Shared Foundations series)	Sarah Culp Searles	October 2021
<i>Project-Based Learning for Elementary Grades</i> (AASL Standards-Based Learning series)	Maura Madigan	April 2022
<i>Social and Emotional Learning for Picture Book Readers</i> (AASL Standards-Based Learning series)	Maureen Schlosser	ETA - June 2022

And, watch for the next few coming soon!

AASL Publications - Upcoming		
Title/Topic	Author(s)	Projected Date
<i>Engage</i> (Shared Foundations series)	Kathryn Roots Lewis and Marcia A. Mardis	Spring 2023
<i>Assessing Learners: Using the AASL Standards to Measure Competency and Growth</i>	Elizabeth Burns	Spring 2023
<i>Culturally Responsive Practice</i>	Elizabet Kennedy	Summer 2023
<i>Branding School Libraries</i>	Susan D. Ballard and Sara Kelly Johns	Fall 2023
<i>Curate</i> (Shared Foundations series)	Daniella Smith	Fall 2023

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Here ye, here ye!” What a way to start one of the best parts of this year’s story: AASL National Conference! Welcoming our smaller than usual, but nevertheless mighty group of conference attendees to the very first back in-person library/ ALA conference was a delight, and what better way to start us off than with costume and a story--remembering the fun parts of why we are school librarians. Storytellers have always been leaders in their communities because they are the keepers and sharers of stories--the purveyors of the Human Record. School Library Leaders (Librarians) are Storytellers, and yet, little did we know how much we needed to be reminded about this storytelling ability for this year!



Here are some of the statistical details of our Conference, but like most data, these numerical assessments only tell a small part of the story of the event as a whole.

Attendees:

- 1,554 representing all 50 states as well as Canada (1), Spain (1), Nigeria (1), Kenya (5), Guatemala (2)
** Salt Lake City is not too far from where I live in Wyoming, so I was able to bring my administrator and my paraprofessionals! **
- Top State Attendance: Utah (308), California (88), Illinois (82), New York (59), Texas (56), Minnesota (53)
- 75 Administrators (including my Interim Superintendent!)
- 72 Exhibitors

Sessions/ Speakers:

- 21 Idea Lab/ Conversation Corner Exhibits
- 245 Speakers
- 131 Concurrent Sessions
- 3 General Sessions
- Closing Celebration with food and dancing!

Other Noteworthy Facts:

- First print from home badge option (more than 50% of attendees used)
- Stickers to show comfort level with others (hello from a distance, OK to shake hands, OK to hug...)
- Selfie Station is always a big hit!



AASL 2021
SALT LAKE CITY

OCTOBER 21-23
national.aasl.org

Of course, we all know that the real power of our Conferences are the things that we can't easily measure: the new connections made, the old friends reunited, the individual conversations that create and strengthen personal learning networks (PLNs), the laughter while dancing to the *Reading Rainbow* theme song (yes, for real!), and other important connections between people and ideas.

It was amazing how many of our vendors sincerely thanked us for being in person and expressed excitement for the next conference (Tampa, FL! October 2023! Mark Your Calendars Now!). The number of school library attendees who really needed this break from the "real world" to reconnect with our people could hardly stop commenting on how nice it was to be in-person. School librarians work mostly lonely lives--the only person with their job in a building, or sometimes a whole district (like myself). We crave in-person connections with other people who understand our daily lives and who can appreciate our stories--the fun ones and the venting!

INTERVIEWS

This has been an unprecedented year for sharing the stories of AASL and school librarians. We were visible and our stories were being heard. It has been my honor to represent my AASL colleagues by participating in over 20 interviews with such influential news sources as *EduTalk Radio*, *The Washington Post*, *NBC 4* in Washington, DC, *USA Today*, *US News and World Report*, *NPR's Here and Now*, and *The Areva Martin*, complete list of engagements and available) can be found in **Appendix A: Interviews**.

Often, the original about censorship or



and Now, and The Areva Martin, complete list of engagements and available) can be **Presidential**

questions were proposed bills or

even how school librarians are dealing with post-pandemic education. However, these questions were almost always an opening to talk about the importance of school librarians as teachers of information evaluation as well as curators of collections. It was a chance to remind various audiences that school librarians are digitally adept--that we are even the people who brought technology into schools. It was a chance to speak to the importance of having well-trained, master's level degreed professionals at the helm of school libraries.

LEADERSHIP TOUR AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Being President of AASL has been incredibly amazing, extremely busy, and both humbling and confidence-building. We were not quite back to in-person events when the year started in July, so I kicked off my Presidential year with some virtual presentations. Sylvia Knight Norton and I presented on digital literacy for the National Association for Media Literacy in Education (NAMLE) and the International Association of School Librarians (IASL) during July and August. In September, I presented for the Republic of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Education about the American Association of School Librarians as an example for how they can set up their own association and Sylvia and I again presented together about digital literacy to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). These are important to note because they are all presentations to those outside of our ordinary circle of school librarians within the United States. The presentation to the CCSSO also led to an invitation to speak in February at the 100th Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, and the IASL presentation led to an invitation to speak at a Town Hall for the International Literacy Association in April. I am exceedingly grateful to AASL for the opportunity to spread the AASL story around the world and into other fields.



I have shared a list of all 13 of my conference and speaking engagements for the 2021-2022 year in **Appendix B: Presidential Presentations and Conferences**. Don't worry, 13 is my lucky number! Five of these conferences (3 Chapters, ASCD and ALA Annual) were in-person, while the rest were virtual.

Of course, no President is an island, as they say. We couldn't do the amazing boots-on-the-ground type of advocacy we need if it is left up to one person! My companions in the Presidential Trio get to join in this fun as well! When we added them to the mix, we were able to visit four more AASL Chapters! Kathy Carroll, our Immediate Past President, attended the Texas Library Association Conference and the Vermont Fest, both in-person events. Kathy Lester, our President-Elect attended both the New Hampshire School Library Media Association Conference and the Georgia Library Media Association Summer Institute in person.



HAPPILY EVER AFTER

You know what has always really bothered me about fairy tales? They always seem to stop at a great part and leave you yearning for what comes next. My year as President of AASL has truly been an experience I thought only happened in storybooks. I was incredibly humbled to be chosen, and it has taken most of the year for me to feel worthy, but this is a path I am certainly glad that I walked. Like the protagonists in all of the stories I love, there were ups and downs, chances to attend balls, walks through darkened woods, strangers whom you don't know yet as friend or foe, unknown spaces to enter, and many adventures to be had. And now, as this part of my story ends, I feel that to say "they all lived happily ever after" is vague and unsatisfying. However, this experience has certainly shown me that the important part is that I lived. And, of course, that I agreed to the nomination in the first place. Now, this leader will step down from managing the realm, go home to hug and play with her son and husband, and spend time preparing for the next adventure.

Happily to be Continued...



Appendix A:

2021-2022 AASL Presidential Interviews Reverse Chronological Order

June 16, 2022. *The Houston Chronicle*. *To be published in July.*

June 7, 2022. *The New Yorker*. *To be published in July.*

June 2, 2022. *The Special Report with Areva Martin*. "Book Bans and the Danger to Society."
Live on FaceBook: <https://bit.ly/SRep336> and YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Eega00Lngvo>.

June 2, 2022. *Vice News*. "The Group Banning LGBT Books Wants to Replace Them with Anti-Gay Propaganda." <https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjbg9v/the-group-banning-lgbt-books-wants-to-replace-them-with-anti-gay-propaganda>

Ana Connery: *USA Today*. *Fall Back to School Special Issue (To be published in the Fall)*

May 18, 2022. *K12 Dive*. "School Librarians Can Fortify Curricula Across Subject Areas." <https://www.k12dive.com/news/school-librarians-can-fortify-curricula-across-subject-areas/624015/>

May 16, 2022. Amy Burroughs, EdTech K-12 *Article not yet published*

May 17, 2022. *US News and World Report*: "Book Bans and What to Know." <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/book-bans-what-to-know>.

April 11, 2022. *NPR: Here & Now*: "School Librarians Speak Out Against Book Bannings and Censorship." <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2022/04/11/librarians-censorship-book-ban>

April 10, 2022. *EduTalk Radio with Larry Jacobs*. "[April is School Library Month](#)." (With fellow school librarians Lisa Brakel and Karen Abraham)

March 22, 2022. *The Washington Post*: "Schools Nationwide Are Quietly Removing Books from Their Libraries." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/03/22/school-librarian-book-bans-challenges/>

March 2, 2022. WCTP Radio: *Joan Esposito: Live, Local and Progressive*: "Book Banning" https://soundcloud.com/wcpt820/joan-esposito-live-local-progressive-03022022?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

February 24, 2022. *The Washington Blade*. "To Fight Book Banning, It's Time to Get Loud." <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2022/02/24/to-fight-book-banning-its-time-to-get-loud/>

February 19, 2022. *The Meteor Newsletter*. "What Are Book Bans Doing to Kids?" <https://wearethemeteor.com/what-book-bans-are-doing-to-kids/>

February 16, 2022. *NBC Washington Channel 4*: "Controversial Sign Displayed in High School Library in Virginia." <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/northern-virginia/controversial-sign-displayed-in-high-school-library-in-virginia/2975081/>



TRANSFORMING LEARNING

American Association of School Librarians
A Division of the American Library Association

www.aasl.org

February 15, 2021. *EduTalk Radio with Larry Jacobs*. “[School Libraries and the Teaching of Life Skills](#).”

December 15, 2021. *District Administration*: “Will Renewed Efforts to Ban Books from Schools Backfire? Yes, Some Say.” <https://districtadministration.com/will-renewed-efforts-to-ban-books-from-schools-backfire-yes-some-say/>

November 19, 2021. EdWeek: “School Libraries and Controversial Books: Tips from the Front Lines.” <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/school-libraries-and-controversial-books-tips-from-the-front-lines/2021/11>

November 17, 2021. *Wyoming State Library*: “A Conversation with Jennisen Lucas, AASL President.” <https://library.wyo.gov/a-conversation-with-jennisen-lucas-aasl-president/>

November 3, 2021. *EduTalk Radio with Larry Jacobs*. “[School Librarians Collaborate with All](#).”

July 7, 2021. *EduTalk Radio with Larry Jacobs*. “[Once Upon a Time in Your School Library](#).”

June 14, 2021. *Publisher’s Weekly*: “Coming Through the Storm: Q&A with AASL President Jennisen Lucas.” <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-industry-news/article/86636-coming-through-the-storm-q-a-with-aasl-president-jennisen-lucas.html>

June 22, 2020. Cody Enterprise: “Lead Librarian: Cody’s Jennisen Lucas Named Head of AASL.” https://www.codyenterprise.com/news/people/article_c9736442-b4b7-11ea-96eb-5b98a485723c.html



Appendix B:

2021-2022 AASL Presidential Speaking Engagements Chronological Order (** Denotes in-person events.)

2021 July 13. Lucas, Jennisen and Sylvia Knight Norton. *IASL Conference*. "[Weaving in the AASL National School Library Standards](#)."

2021 July 17. Lucas, Jennisen and Sylvia Knight Norton. *NAMLE Conference*. "[Weaving School Libraries into the Media Literacy Fabric of Social Justice](#)."

2021 August 15. Lucas, Jennisen. *Role of School Librarians in the Education of the Reading Generation Conference*. Republic of Kazakhstan. "[AASL Best Of...](#)"

2021 September 29. Lucas, Jennisen and Sylvia Knight Norton. *CCSSO Fall Meeting*. "[Using Digital Literacy to Promote Civic Responsibility and to Grow Citizen Scholars](#)."

2021 September 30. Lucas, Jennisen. *South Dakota School Library Association Conference*. "[AASL Best Of...](#)" and "[Books & Bytes: School Librarians as Information Specialists](#)." (Note: This presentation has been modified for subsequent deliveries.)

2022 February 6. Lucas, Jennisen. National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) 100th Conference. "[Challenge in the Challenges: Supporting Intellectual Freedom in a Time of Societal Turmoil](#)."

**2022 March 18-20. *ACSD Conference*. Exhibit Hall Booth Operator with Kathy Lester, Laura Hicks and Sylvia Knight Norton. (No presentation)

**2022 April 21-24. Lucas, Jennisen. *Pennsylvania School Library Association Conference*. "[There is Only One AASL](#)." and "[Books & Bytes: School Librarians as Information Specialists](#)." (Note: The AASL presentation has been modified for subsequent conferences.)

2022 April 28. Lucas, Jennisen, et. al. *International Literacy Association (ILA) Town Hall*. "[Censorship in School Libraries Across the Globe](#)." (With Lucy Santos Green, April Hawkins, Fredrik Ernerot, Valerie Glass, Danielle E. Hartsfield, Carol Jago, Annette M. Kiberu, Kenneth Kunz, Terry McHugh, Molly Ness, and Julia E. Torres.)

2022 May 16. Lucas, Jennisen and Ashley Hawkins and Samantha Hull. *Library.Today*. "[Self-Censorship Panel](#)."

**2022 May 19-22. Lucas, Jennisen. *New York Library Association Section for School Libraries Conference*. "[There is Only One AASL](#)." and "[The Library Ecosystem: What's In It for Us?](#)" (with Sara Kelly Johns) (Note: The AASL presentation was modified for subsequent conferences.)

**2022 June 10. Lucas, Jennisen. *Connecticut Association of School Librarians nErDcampCT*. "[There is Only One AASL](#)."

**2022 June 25. *American Library Association Conference*. Washington, D.C. AASL Presidential Program. "Add Your Voice to the AASL Story." (Slides Not Yet Available)

Appendix B:**2021-2022 AASL Press Releases
Reverse Chronological Order****Kimery elected 2023-2024 AASL Supervisors Section Chair**

CHICAGO – Lindsey Kimery, Coordinator of Library Services for Metro Nashville (Tennessee) Public Schools, has been elected 2023-2024 chair of the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Supervisors Section (ISS).

Lucas elected 2022-2024 AASL Independent Schools Section Secretary

CHICAGO – Amanda Lucas, librarian at Riverside Presbyterian Day School in Jacksonville, Florida, has been elected 2022-2024 secretary of the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Independent Schools Section (ISS).

Thakkar elected 2023-2024 AASL Independent Schools Section Chair

CHICAGO – Neha Thakkar, school librarian at the Avery Coonley School in Downers Grove, Illinois, has been elected 2023-2024 chair of the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Independent Schools Section (ISS).

Morris elected 2023-2024 AASL Educators of School Librarians Section Chair

CHICAGO – Rebecca J. Morris, teaching associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh, has been elected 2023-2024 chair of the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Educators of School Librarians Section (ESLS). Morris's term will begin during the 2022 ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Fuhrman elected 2022-2024 AASL Director-At-Large, Chapters

CHICAGO – Dr. Cathi Fuhrman, school librarian at State College Area High School in State College, Pennsylvania, has been elected American Association of School Librarians (AASL) director-at-large, chapters for 2022-2024. Fuhrman will take her seat on the AASL Board of Directors during the 2022 ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Kordeliski elected 2022-2024 AASL Director-At-Large

CHICAGO – Amanda Kordeliski, director of libraries and instructional technology for Norman (Oklahoma) Public Schools, has been elected American Association of School Librarians (AASL) director-at-large for 2022-2024. Kordeliski will take her seat on the AASL Board of Directors during the 2022 ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Rivera elected 2022-2024 AASL Secretary/Treasurer

CHICAGO – Juan Rivera, library media specialist at A. Philip Randolph Campus High School in New York, has been elected the 2022-2024 secretary/treasurer of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Rivera will take his seat on the AASL Board of Directors at the end of June during the 2022 ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

2022 AASL Research Grants Awarded

CHICAGO – Three research papers have been awarded the 2022 American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Research Grants by the Educators of School Librarians Section (ESLS) of AASL. Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the grants recognize excellence in manuscripts

addressing a persistent and recurring challenge in the field of school librarianship. Each grant consists of a \$350 award and the researchers will present their papers at the 2023 AASL National Conference in Tampa, Florida.

AASL Selects Administrators for 2022-2024 School Leader Collaborative

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is pleased to announce the five school administrators who have been selected to serve on the 2022-2024 AASL School Leader Collaborative. The three principals and two superintendents are members of a second cohort in an initiative sponsored by OverDrive Education to champion the school librarian's integral role in teaching and learning.

AASL Standards now crosswalked to ASCD Whole Child Tenets

CHICAGO – As part of its continued commitment to provide school library professionals the materials and resources needed to implement its “National School Library Standards,” the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has released a crosswalk aligning the AASL Standards to ASCD Whole Child Tenets. The crosswalk and accompanying statement of alignment are downloadable, and the printable PDFs are available on the [AASL Standards Portal](#).

AASL announces Best Digital Tools for Teaching & Learning

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has released its annual list of Best Digital Tools for Teaching & Learning. The Best Digital Tools provide opportunities for school librarians to enhance learning, engage learners, and collaborate with educators. The list can be found at www.ala.org/aasl/best.

AASL Awards Five Inspire Collection Development Grants

CHICAGO – Five school libraries from across the country have been awarded American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Collection Development Grants. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections to enhance student learning. The Inspire Collection Development Grant provides funds to extend, update, and diversify a school's book, online, subscription and/or software collections to improve student achievement.

Woodside High School receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant

CHICAGO – Stephanie Persson, school librarian at Woodside School in Newport News, Virginia, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

North Davidson Middle School receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant

CHICAGO – Kristina Allred, school library media coordinator at North Davidson Middle School in Lexington, North Carolina, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

Mayo High School for Math,**Science, and Technology receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant**

CHICAGO – Dohnia Galloway, media specialist at Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology in Darlington, South Carolina, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

Mayde Creek High School receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant

CHICAGO – Jessica Fitzpatrick, school librarian at Mayde Creek High School in Richmond, Texas, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

Madison Area Memorial High School receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant

CHICAGO – Hannah Luce, library media specialist at Madison Area Memorial High School in Madison, Maine, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

“Asian American History IS American History” receives AASL Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award

CHICAGO – The “Asian American History IS American History” project from Dunwoody Elementary School in Dunwoody, Georgia, is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award. Sponsored by Penguin Random House, the Roald Dahl Award recognizes collaboration between school librarians and teachers in the instruction of social justice using school library resources.

Samantha Mora receives AASL Innovative Reading Grant

CHICAGO – Samantha Mora, teacher librarian at Wood River Middle School in Hailey, Idaho, is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Innovative Reading Grant. Sponsored by Capstone, the \$2,500 grant supports the planning and implementation of a unique and innovative program for children that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers.

Pentland Elected 2023-2024 AASL President

CHICAGO – Courtney Pentland, school librarian at North Star High School in Lincoln, Nebraska, has been elected the 2023-2024 president of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Pentland will serve as president-elect during 2022-2023 under AASL President Kathy Lester.

AASL Announces New Member Benefit

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has launched new Communities of Practice (CoP) as an exclusive benefit to its members. These online communities provide a gathering space for like-minded school library professionals to discuss,

share, and learn around a central topic. The five newly launched communities focus on digital and technology tools; diversity, equity, and inclusion; information literacy instruction, literature/reading promotion, and teacher collaboration.

FReadom Fighters receives AASL Intellectual Freedom Award

CHICAGO – FReadom Fighters, started by a group of Texas school librarians, Becky Calzada, Carolyn Foote, and Nancy Jo Lambert, is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Intellectual Freedom Award. Established in 1982 and sponsored by ProQuest, the award is given for upholding the principles of intellectual freedom as set forth by AASL and ALA.

“Bulls on Parade - Banned Books Week Poster Design” receives the AASL Collaborative School Library Award

CHICAGO – Michael Giller, Director of Library Services for South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, South Carolina, is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Collaborative School Library Award, along with collaborative partner, David Gerhard, Visual Arts Department Chair and Graphic Design teacher.

Tim Salem receives AASL Distinguished School Administrator Award

CHICAGO – Tim Salem, Principal at Scotts Ridge Middle School, is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Distinguished School Administrator Award. Sponsored by ProQuest, the \$2,000 award recognizes and honors a school administrator who has made worthy contributions to the operations of exemplary school libraries and to advancing the role of the school library in the educational program.

Louisiana Association of School Librarians awarded AASL ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant

CHICAGO – The Louisiana Association of School Librarians (LASL) is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant. Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the \$1,750 grant is given to an AASL Chapter for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional, or local level.

Ashley Long receives AASL Frances Henne Award

CHICAGO – Ashley Long, media specialist at Talley Street Upper Elementary in Decatur, Georgia, is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Frances Henne Award. Sponsored by Libraries Unlimited, the \$1,250 award recognizes a school librarian with five years or less experience who demonstrates leadership qualities with students, teachers, and administrators. The award will enable Long to attend an AASL National Conference for the first time.

South Carolina Association of School Librarians receives AASL Chapter of the Year Award

CHICAGO – The South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) is the recipient of the 2022 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Chapter of the Year Award. The \$1,000 award recognizes the AASL Chapter most active and dynamic in achieving the goals of AASL at the state and local level.

AASL Opens Call For Knowledge Quest and School Library Research Editorial Board Members



TRANSFORMING LEARNING

American Association of School Librarians
A Division of the American Library Association

www.aasl.org

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) seeks a dynamic group of school library professionals to serve on the *Knowledge Quest* (KQ) and *School Library Research* (SLR) Editorial Boards. These publications move the profession forward by highlighting school library best practices and emergent research in the field. For more information and the application, visit www.ala.org/aasl/app.

AASL Opens Call For 2023 AASL National Conference Committee Members

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) seeks a dynamic group of school library professionals to serve on the 2023 AASL National Conference Committee. The conference, taking place October 19-21, 2023 in Tampa, Florida, is the only national conference dedicated solely to the needs of school librarians and their roles as educational leaders. AASL members may apply at www.ala.org/aasl/app.

AASL to open dialogs during ASCD conference

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will be in attendance when the 2022 ASCD Annual Conference takes place in Chicago this month. AASL President Jennisen Lucas, AASL President-Elect Kathy Lester, former AASL Board of Directors member Laura Hicks, and AASL Executive Director Sylvia Knight Norton will make connections and represent the school library profession on the exhibit floor during Recharge & Reconnect on March 18-21, 2022.

AASL signs letter calling a halt to anti-LGBTQ+ legislation

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has added its signature as to an open letter to state legislatures around the country calling on them to halt the advance of discriminatory, anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. AASL is one of twenty signatory associations, collectively representing more than seven million youth-serving professionals, calling on lawmakers to reconsider moving forward with policies that will endanger vulnerable, marginalized populations.

AASL School Leader Collaborative Call For Nominations

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is pleased to issue a call for nominations for a new school administrator cohort for the AASL School Leader Collaborative. Sponsored by OverDrive Education, the initiative is a continuation of OverDrive's support for the 2019-2021 cohort whose members were speakers at the AASL 2021 National Conference general session.

AASL Town Halls promote community and connections

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) continues to build community by providing opportunities for school librarians to share and network with monthly virtual town halls. Dates and registration links for the final four AASL Town Halls for the 2021-2022 school year can be found at www.ala.org/aasl/townhall. Topics for each town hall will be announced prior to each date.

AASL Curate Project selected for ALA Emerging Leader Work

CHICAGO – *Developing Critical Curators Seeking Diverse Perspectives*, a project proposed by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), has been selected as a part of the 2022 American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders program. AASL's project tasks an



Emerging Leaders team to develop materials that support professional development and instruction around the *National School Library Standards* Shared Foundation of Curate.

School Library Collection Policies Analyzed in New Research

CHICAGO – Newly published research from the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) peer-reviewed online journal, *School Library Research* (SLR), analyzes the status of selection policies in school libraries and whether the policies reflect the recommendations of professional literature. Articles can be accessed for free at www.ala.org/aasl/slr.

Research examines AASL Standards impact on administrator initiative

CHICAGO – Just published research from the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) peer-reviewed online journal, *School Library Research* (SLR), investigates the impact of the AASL *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* on the association's two-year long administrator initiative. Articles can be accessed for free at www.ala.org/aasl/slr.

Pentland and Sturge Seek 2023-2024 AASL Presidency

CHICAGO – Courtney Pentland and Jennifer Sturge will seek the 2023-2024 AASL presidential term during the 2022 American Library Association (ALA) election. The full slate of American Association of School Librarians (AASL) candidates can be found at www.ala.org/aasl/elections.

Laurel Taylor selected as 2022 AASL Emerging Leader

CHICAGO – Laurel Taylor has been selected as one of two participants sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in the American Library Association's (ALA) 2022 Emerging Leaders program. The Emerging Leaders program enables library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. Taylor and Stephanie Goh will join 47 of their peers as the program kicks off virtually during LibLearnX.

Stephanie Goh selected as 2022 AASL Emerging Leader

CHICAGO – Stephanie Goh has been selected as one of two participants sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in the American Library Association's (ALA) 2022 Emerging Leaders program. The Emerging Leaders program enables library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. Goh and Laurel Taylor will join 47 of their peers as the program kicks off virtually during LibLearnX.

The American Library Association opposes widespread efforts to censor books in U.S. schools and libraries

CHICAGO - Due to a dramatic uptick in book challenges and outright removal of books from libraries, ALA's Executive Board and the Boards of Directors for all of ALA's eight divisions have released the following joint statement regarding attempts to remove materials that focus on LGBTQIA+ issues and books by Black authors or that document the Black experience or the experiences of other BIPOC individuals.

At the heart of their schools, school librarians display the power to change communities at 2021 AASL National Conference



SALT LAKE CITY – School librarians are educators at the heart of their schools, promoting literacy, equity, diversity, and inclusion; enhancing learning; and ensuring access to information for all. They work collaboratively with administrators, fellow educators, public libraries, and community service organizations to transform teaching and learning and empower their students.

[Journey through school librarianship using AASL’s Shared Foundation of Explore](#)

CHICAGO — Published by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and ALA Editions, Sarah Culp Searles’s book “[Explore](#)” takes readers on a journey through the broad and varied territory of school librarianship, sharing resources, ideas, and trends to help along the way. This guide is designed so that readers can explore their practice on their own or with colleagues—so grab your compass, backpack, and boots and hit the trails.

[Using AASL’s Shared Foundation of Include as a roadmap for more inclusive spaces and practice](#)

CHICAGO — Published by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and ALA Editions, Julie Stivers’s book “[Include](#)” brings together a chorus of school librarians, scholars, and students representing a wide range of races, ethnicities, experiences, and identities. Part of [a six-volume series](#) on the Shared Foundations in AASL’s *National School Library Standards*,

[AASL commends fourteen programs, events, and products across the country](#)

CHICAGO — Acting upon recommendations made by its chapters, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) formally commended fourteen outstanding programs, events, and products for their support of the school librarian profession and the learners the profession serves. To be considered, programs must align with the principles expressed in the national association’s mission and value statements.

[Applications Open for 2022 AASL Awards](#)

CHICAGO – Applications for the American Association of School Librarians’ (AASL) 2022 awards are now available. AASL members are encouraged to nominate a colleague or themselves to be lauded for their outstanding talent and dedication to the profession as part of this prestigious awards program. AASL awards and grants recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library field in categories that include collaboration, leadership, and innovation.

[AASL Partners with Pokémon to Offer Pokémon Clubs](#)

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is partnering with The Pokémon Company International, to bring a new recreational activity called Pokémon Club to school libraries. During Pokémon Club, students can play the Pokémon Trading Card Game, do fun Pokémon-themed arts and crafts, and more. For more information and to apply, visit www.ala.org/aasl/pokemon.

[Mernie Maestas wins free AASL National Conference registration, hotel, and travel](#)

CHICAGO – Mernie Maestas, school librarian in Missouri, recommended American Association of School Librarians (AASL) membership to a colleague and in return has been drawn as the grand prize winner of AASL’s Share the Wealth campaign. The grand prize package includes complimentary registration, roundtrip airfare, and a three-night hotel stay to the AASL National Conference.

[Administrator support empowers school librarians as literacy leaders](#)



TRANSFORMING LEARNING

American Association of School Librarians
A Division of the American Library Association

www.aasl.org

CHICAGO – Just published research from the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) peer-reviewed online journal, *School Library Research* (SLR), explores how school district administrators can foster information literacy by supporting school librarians. Articles can be accessed for free at www.ala.org/aasl/slr.

AASL to host screening of “Trust Me” during AASL National Conference

CHICAGO – During its 2021 National Conference, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will host a screening of the award-winning documentary “Trust Me” followed by an opportunity to discuss the film with its producer. The screening finds a natural home at the only national conference dedicated to school librarians as the film highlights the crucial need for school librarians in their role as media literacy educators. More information can be found at national.aasl.org/trust-me.

AASL partners with the Getting Better Foundation to share award-winning documentary

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has partnered with the Getting Better Foundation (GBF) to share the award-winning documentary “Trust Me” with school librarians and their educator colleagues. The partnership is part of AASL's ongoing commitment to advance the school librarian's critical role as a media literacy educator and promote the role all librarians play in empowering their communities with information literacy. More information can be found at www.ala.org/aasl/trust-me.

A Conversation with School Administrators at AASL National Conference

CHICAGO – The Friday general session during the 2021 American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National Conference will give attendees an intimate look at what administrators need and expect from their school librarians and school libraries and how administrators can empower a school librarian's leadership role to impact all learners. Six administrators from across the country will participate in an engaging and interactive conversation sponsored by Sora, by OverDrive Education.