

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

Two Pennsylvania Librarians Selected for American Library Association Leadership Institute

Two Pennsylvania librarians, Allison Mackley, Teacher-Librarian at Hershey High School, and Aaron Dobbs, Systems & Electronic Resources Librarian at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, were two of only 40 librarians selected nationwide to participate in “Leading to the Future” (www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/ala-leadership-institute), a new four-day immersive leadership development program for future library leaders offered from August 12 to 15, 2013, in Itasca, IL, by the American Library Association (ALA).

Led by ALA President Maureen Sullivan and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Content Strategist Kathryn Deiss, the institute was designed to help participants develop and practice their leadership skills so they can better help the libraries and the communities they serve to thrive in a future that promises continued turbulence and uncertainty. The curriculum included

- leading in turbulent times;
- interpersonal competence;
- power and influence;
- the art of convening groups; and
- creating a culture of inclusion, innovation, and transformation.



Allison Mackley

The selection committee looked for a diverse mix of participants based on the type of library, professional responsibility, geography, gender, and race/ethnicity, as well as demonstrated leadership potential, readiness for increased responsibility, professional achievement, and community or campus involvement. Participants are expected to return to their libraries equipped with new skills for leading, coaching, collaborating, and engaging their organizations and communities and prepared to identify, develop, and implement solutions that benefit everyone.

Allison Mackley is a Teacher-Librarian who is certified from the National Board and actively involved at the local and state levels. An alumna of the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) Academy of Leadership Studies, (PALS) she serves on several PaLA committees, including the PALS Planning Team, the Best Practices in Libraries Programs and Services Committee, the PA Forward Steering Committee, and the PA Forward Information Literacy Team as co-chair. In addition, she is on the editorial board of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association’s

(PSLA) journal, *Learning and Media*, as well as the writing and development team for the Pennsylvania Model Library Curriculum, a joint effort of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and PSLA. Allison seeks to promote library program services, to foster teacher leadership, to build professional learning networks, and to embrace 21st-century teaching and learning. She acknowledges the changing role of librarians, and in her collaborative partnerships, she has advocated for an integrated and relevant curriculum, which will empower students to reach their greatest potential as digital- and information-literate citizens.



Aaron Dobbs

Aaron Dobbs is actively involved in efforts to leverage technologies improving library services, to monitor proposed changes to information and technology policy, to advocate for effective information and technology policy that balances the needs of government and businesses to manage information with the public's right to know, and to use legal information sharing tools and technologies at the local, regional, and national levels. He celebrates the changing role of libraries and librarians and encourages examination and re-imagination of services to better meet users' (and non-users') information needs and desires. When asked what he hopes to bring back to Shippensburg University, he responded, "I hope to bring fresh tools for furthering communication to smooth our transitions into more technology-assisted workflows and bring the information future that much closer to reality today."