“AASL is a gathering of the most vibrant leaders from our profession from across the nation. Hearing from these inspiring speakers helps me look at my own practice to see what I can do to keep learning, growing, and improving my craft.”

MARY ANN SCHEUER, conference co-chair
MAKE THE CASE
AASL National Conference Is THE Professional Development Event for School Librarians

Why do you NEED to attend?

1. College and Career Readiness =
   Reading Rigor

   Non-fiction reading requirements increase by grade:

   - 4th grade: 50%
   - 8th grade: 55%
   - 12th grade: 70%

   Research shows students’ ability to independently read complex text decreases by grade. Percentage of students independently reading at least one book at or above their text complexity grade band:

   - Grades 2-5: 81.98%
   - Grades 6-8: 24.32%
   - High School: 7.14%

   “Jason Reynolds speaks to the major concerns of our times, of helping youth find themselves in school, of making readers talk to young people about important issues for their generation.”
   - KAREN PERRY, author-co-chair

   More than 300 digital learning tools curated for AASL’s Best Websites & Apps for Teaching and Learning strengthen instruction, critical thinking skills, and inquiry with an emphasis on innovation, creativity, and collaboration. AASL has curated the best of these digital tools in the following categories:

   - Manage & Organize: 50
   - Content Collaboration: 51
   - Curriculum Collaboration: 52
   - Media Sharing: 40
   - Virtual Environments: 2
   - Social Networking: 54
   - Digital Storytelling: 24
   - Content Resources: 27
   - STEAM: 20
   - Social Sciences: 15
   - Books: 20
   - Humanities & Arts: 6

2. College and Career Readiness =
   Digital Literacy

   “say that digital content like videos, simulations, and animations are having the greatest impact on transforming teaching and learning.”
   - Identified the implementation of blended learning environments as having the greatest impact on transforming teaching and learning.
   - In blending face-to-face instruction with online content and curriculum in the classroom (47% - 63%)"1

3. College and Career Readiness =
   Digital Citizenship

   - 70% of U.S. job recruiters have rejected candidates based on their online reputations.
   - 38% of college admission officers found something online that had a negative impact on their evaluation of a student.
   - 39% of teens say they have sent or posted sexually suggestive messages.
   - 86% is the average amount lost to cyber crimes reported by teens4

   “Jaime speaks our language about inquiry, transforming project-based learning, problem asking, communication, and collaboration.”
   - CATHY EVANS, conference co-chair

   OPENING KEYNOTE
   Jaime Casap

   “We need to quit asking students what they want to be when they grow up and ask them instead, ‘what problem do you want to solve?’”

   “No school librarian needs to ‘feel solo’ when huge numbers of professionals are walking, eating, and existing to lend an ear and a hand as needed.”
   - BECKY PASCO, professor, University of Nebraska-Omaha

4. Inquiry Learning/Research Skills

   The Good
   - 94% of education professionals feel students demonstrate improved learning, performance and/or achievement when technology is integrated into the curriculum.
   - 50% of high school students have sought out information online to help better understand a topic studied in class.

   The Bad
   - 4 of the top 10 most cited websites come from user-generated websites (Wikipedia, YouTube, Yahoo! Answers and Answers.com).
   - 54% of students say they would be less likely to cite sources if they didn’t have research management tools.

   The Ugly
   - 51% of college freshmen had a hard time learning to navigate new tools and 43% had trouble making sense of information once sources were found.
   - When college freshmen were asked about the most difficult steps in conducting research:

   - 75% coming up with keywords
   - 57% sorting through irrelevant search results
   - 51% identifying and selecting sources
   - 43% integrating writing styles from different sources

5. AASL National Conference =
   Prepares School Librarians

   Sessions
   The number and variety of sessions and exhibits offered at AASL’s National Conference is as varied and diverse as the role our members play within their school or district.

   - College/Career Readiness
   - Research & Information Literacy
   - Reading & Promotion
   - Curriculum & Instruction
   - Special Needs
   - Writing
   - Advocacy
   - Professional Development
   - Collaboration
   - 21st Century Skills
   - Collection Development