YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, Orlando  
June 24 – June 28, 2016

Topic: 2016 – 2017 President’s Theme/Focus

Background: YALSA Presidents can opt to have a theme for their presidential year. Selecting a theme typically begins with reading the YALSA strategic plan and thinking about what can be accomplished in a year that advances the plan. The purpose of the theme is to give member leaders a focused initiative or set of activities around which to engage members and ultimately helps drive the association forward. Sarah Hill has put together the following document to outline her focus and goals for her year, drawing on priorities from the Futures Report and the rough draft of the new organizational plan. Board members with ideas and feedback can get in touch with Sarah.

Action Required: Information

Name: Real Teens, Real Ready

Focus
Real Teens, Real Ready will focus on the parts of the strategic plan and Futures Report about college and career readiness and the skills needed for teens to succeed in adulthood.

Goal
To broaden member awareness of the library’s need to educate teens about college and career readiness (CCR) and workforce development.

Rationale
The Futures Report states that “Success…requires an expanded set of skills that goes beyond traditional academic skills and includes learning and innovation skills (i.e., creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration), and information, media, and technology skills (i.e., information literacy, media literacy, digital literacy, and ICT literacy).”

Multiple studies (many of which are featured on YALSA’s CCR wiki page) are showing us what it is that teens need in order to be college and career ready. A few key findings that are of note to libraries are:

- College and career readiness needs to begin in middle school
- Low-income teens are at a greater disadvantage when it comes to access to information about college and careers. In addition, they also have less access to people who can assist them, such as high school counselors
• Parents need to be engaged in conversations about college and career readiness
• Rural youth have different needs around college and career readiness than suburban and urban ones
• Only 8% of high school graduates receive any formal college and career readiness training

In addition, multiple frameworks and models exist that demonstrate the knowledge, skills and dispositions teens need in order to be college and career ready, such as this Readiness Abilities Map: http://sparkaction.org/content/readiness-abilities-map. I want my presidential initiative to focus on libraries supporting this gap—teens learning college and career readiness skills.

Next Step
Convene a President’s Program Task Force that will focus on this theme, offering opportunities for YALSA members to share best practices about career and college readiness. The Annual Conference program will take place in Chicago, so local city and suburb libraries and relevant organizations should be involved. Because I live and work in Illinois, I plan on using some of my Illinois School Library Media Association contacts to help. The next issue of YALS is focused on this theme, too, and Linda Braun has given me contact information on programs discussed in that issue. We may also utilize some of the people involved with the recently. The task force will review the probable and possible activities listed below this summer, and keep the Board informed via quarterly chair reports.

Possible Activities for the Task Force
• Collect exemplary examples of college and workforce readiness programs through yalsa-bk, state organizations, YALSAblog, and other networks, and share them through the Teen Programming HQ
• Share existing or create new infographics that help libraries understand the role they can play in college and career readiness
• Reach out to TTW and TRW strategic committees to integrate the Real Teens, Real Ready theme into their existing activities
• Reach out to other ALA units and outside organizations to help with the presidential program and year-long effort
  o Look into Project Lead the Way in Chicago (http://www.pltw.uillinois.edu/), Chicago Public Library and suburban libraries, and local TRIO groups for collaboration

Fiscal Implications
• Member leader time on task force
• Staff time to support task force, handle President’s Program logistics, promote resources, etc.

Additional Resources
• Futures Report www.ala.org/yaforum/projectreport
• YALSA College & Career Readiness Wiki
  http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/College_%26_Career_Readiness
• YALSA Determining & Measuring Outcomes resources:
  http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/After_School_Programs#Determining_26_Measuring_Outcomes (includes models for college & career readiness)
• State of America’s Libraries Report 2016