

# COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 2021 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE  
COVERS THE PERIOD BETWEEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MIDWINTER MEETING

### ROSTER

#### CHAIR

- Karen Downing

#### MEMBERS

- **Mr. Victor Dominguez Baeza** (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
- **Dr. Karen E. Downing** (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
- **Mrs. Amy Danielle Dye-Reeves** (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
- **Mrs. Sarah Rose Edwards Obenauf** (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
- **Dr. LaVerne Gray** (Member, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
- **Chelsea Hanrahan** (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
- **Mrs. Christine Hoffman** (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
- **Stefanie Metko** (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
- **Dr. Xinyu(Cindy) Yu** (Member, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
- **Mrs. Elizabeth A. Burns** (AASL Representative, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021)
- **Walter Butler** (ACRL Representative, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
- **Kimberly A. Brown-Harden** (LEANRT Representative, July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021)
- **Amber Hayes** (Staff Liaison, July 1, 2020, to June 25, 2025)
- **Gwendolyn Prellwitz** (Primary Staff Liaison, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2022)

#### ASSOCIATES

- **Karen I. Berry** (Committee Associate, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022)
- **Stephanie S. Rodriguez** (Committee Associate, March 16, 2020, to June 30, 2021)

#### CHARGE

To have responsibility for developing and recommending the association's policies related to the full spectrum of education for all library and information studies personnel. To assure that the association actively solicits from its members information about the condition, currency, relevance, and type of education necessary to improve current and future library and information services. This information will be shared with the ALA committee on accreditation, the ALA membership and its units, and allied professional organizations. To coordinate recommendations and policies concerning education promulgated by ALA divisions, round tables, and other units to eliminate conflict or unnecessary duplication and to work closely with these units through the education assembly. To maintain communication and rapport nationally and internationally, as appropriate, with other organizations concerned with library and information studies. To represent the association nationally and internationally to organizations and agencies outside the field of library and information studies that are concerned with professional education and staff preparation. To identify needed education initiatives in

library and information studies and to help promote their accomplishments. To identify needed research concerning education for library and information studies and to help promote its accomplishment. To act as a clearinghouse of information on all aspects of education for library and information studies, for the profession and the public-at-large.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The COE has been very busy reviewing and editing the ALA Core Competencies, last revised in 2009, for the past two years. Committee members have worked in small teams on revising each competency and discussing drafts.

We intend to have drafts of the revised competencies out for review by ALA stakeholders by the end of January. We will have a feedback form on the Web at the same time so that ALA stakeholders can provide feedback. We will disseminate the drafts widely throughout ALA and its affiliates, and develop the final revisions in time for ALA Council to vote on the revisions at ALA Annual 2021.

The COE brought an action item to COO in December 2020 to disband the Education Assembly. The COE's experience with the Education Assembly points to its duplicative purpose and lack of focus and attendance. The COO voted unanimously to disband the Education Assembly, and will bring this action to ALA Council at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting.

The Committee has also been, per their invite, monitoring discussions in the [Librarian Education Reform Discussion Group](#) and the ALA Connect Live Town Hall with American Library Association Leaders About the Employment Outlook for LIS Students in November.

## EVENTS OR PROGRAMS

We intend to schedule several listening sessions sometime in February-April to encourage feedback on the revised Core Competency drafts.

We intend to hold a discussion with ALA members and other stakeholders in Fall 2021 on using the revised Core Competencies in libraries of all types.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The COE is planning a variety of activities over the next 6 to 12 months:

- In conjunction with distributing the drafts of the newly revised ALA Core Competencies throughout the Association, the COE plans on developing and launching a feedback survey for any member or ALA group to respond to the drafts.
- We also plan to hold several synchronous feedback sessions to talk about the draft competencies.
- We will move that ALA Council adopt the new competencies at ALA Annual 2021.
- Finally, we plan to have a session between Annual 2021 or during Midwinter 2022 about the using the competencies in any library setting, and moderating discussion on differences/overlap between professional degree programs and onboarding responsibilities within libraries.

## INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER UNITS WITHIN ALA

As part of the Core Competencies Revisions, COE plans a lot of interaction with many units within ALA, affiliates, and outside of ALA: COA, Division Boards, RTs, LIS programs, Connect Community (LIS Reform), Ethnic Caucuses, ALISE.

## RELATIONSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK TO THE ALA STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

We have been working very diligently to ensure the new version of the professional competencies more closely reflects the ALA strategic directions and core values, especially the EDI Strategic Direction through the addition of a core competency on Social Justice.

## COMMITTEES SELF-CHECK ON ITS VALUE AND VISIBILITY

We are thankful to past committee members Anastasia G. Guimaraes and David Hurley and continuing members Cindy Yu, Walter Butler, and Sarah Obenauf for their considerable work on the competencies review and transition. The majority of committee members are working on competency revisions and participating in meetings. Special thanks to Associates Karen Berry and Stephanie Rodriguez for their project management and meeting scheduling.

## ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION