

# 2016 Reading Summit Workshop Presenters Gallery

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

### Kwame Alexander @kwamealexander

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and author of 18 books, and recipient of the 2015 Newbery Medal for his novel, *The Crossover*. The founder of two literacy organizations: *Book-in-a-Day* and *LEAP for Ghana*, he regularly travels the world conducting writing/publishing workshops at schools and conferences. Kwame has owned several publishing companies, written for stage and television (TLC's "Hip Hop Harry"), recorded a CD, produced jazz and book festivals, hosted a radio show, worked for the U.S. Government, and taught high school. In 2015, Kwame joined the Bank Street College of Education as their first writer-in-residence.

**Keynote Speaker**



### Pam Allyn @pamallyn

Pam Allyn is a world-renowned expert, author, and motivational speaker on the subject of kids and reading, and how having access to literacy will change lives. She is the founder of LitWorld, a groundbreaking global literacy movement that serves children across the United States and in 20 countries. She and her team invented World Read Aloud Day, a day of action for literacy. She is also the award-winning author of several books, including *Your Child's Writing Life* and *What to Read When*.

**Keynote Speaker**



### Nancie Atwell @NancieAtwell

A middle school English teacher since 1973, Nancie Atwell is the inaugural recipient of the Global Teacher Prize. She donated the \$1 million award to the Center for Teaching and Learning, the K-8 non-profit demonstration school she founded in Edgecomb, Maine. She is the first classroom teacher to receive the major U.S. research awards in the language arts, the M.L.A. Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, and the N.C.T.E. David H. Russell Award. She was honored as the N.C.T.E. Outstanding Middle School English Teacher and River of Words Poetry Teacher of the Year. Nancie is the author of the classic text *In the Middle* which Thomas Newkirk of the University of New Hampshire describes as "the greatest book on literacy teaching ever written in this country."

**Keynote Speaker**



### Matt de la Peña @mattdelapena

Matt de la Peña is *The New York Times* best-selling author of six critically acclaimed young adult novels: *Ball Don't Lie*, *Mexican WhiteBoy*, *We Were Here*, *I Will Save You*, *The Living*, and *The Hunted*. He's also the author of the award-winning picture books: *A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis* and the 2016 Newbery Award winner, *Last Stop on Market Street* (illustrated by Christian Robinson). He teaches creative writing and visits high schools and colleges throughout the country.

**Keynote Speaker**



### Kate Messner @KateMessner

Kate Messner is an award-winning author whose books have been *New York Times* Notable, Junior Library Guild, IndieBound, and Bank Street College of Education Best Books selections. Her most recent series, *Ranger in Time*, is about a time-traveling search-and-rescue dog who has been transported to the Oregon Trail, Ancient Rome, and the Underground Railroad. Kate is the author of several other series, as well as stand-alone novels across multiple genres and award-winning nonfiction picture books, including *How to Read a Story*. Kate taught middle school for 15 years and earned National Board Certification in 2006.

**Keynote Speaker**



### Donalyn Miller @donalynbooks

Donalyn Miller is an award-winning Texas teacher and author of several books on engaging children with reading, including *The Book Whisperer* and *Reading in the Wild*. Donalyn is the co-founder of the community blog *Nerdy Book Club* and co-hosts the monthly Twitter chat #titletalk. She has been published in *Education Week Teacher*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Educational Leadership*, and *The Washington Post*. Donalyn currently serves as manager of independent reading and outreach for Scholastic Book Fairs®.

**Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (All Locations)**

**Workshop: Dead Presidents and Whales: Engaging Students With Nonfiction Texts (St. Charles, San Jose, Leesburg, Charlotte, Covington)**



## Featured Speakers cont.



### Dr. Ernest Morrell @ernestmorrell

Dr. Ernest Morrell is the Macy Professor of English Education and Director of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME) at Teachers College, Columbia University. Ernest has authored more than 70 articles and book chapters, as well as seven books including *Every Child a Super Reader* (in press with Scholastic), *New Directions in Teaching English*, *Linking Literacy and Popular Culture*, and *Critical Media Pedagogy: Teaching for Achievement in City Schools*, which was awarded Outstanding Academic Title for 2014 by *Choice Magazine* of the American Library Association.

**Keynote Speaker**



### Sara Pennypacker @sarapennypacker

Sara Pennypacker is the author of 14 children's books, including *The New York Times* best-selling, award-winning Clementine series: *Clementine*; *The Talented Clementine*; *Clementine's Letter* (for which she won the Christopher Award); *Clementine, Friend of the Week*; *Clementine and the Family Meeting*; *Clementine and the Spring Trip*; and *Completely Clementine*. She is the author of the Stuart Books (*Stuart's Cape* and *Stuart Goes to School*) and the novel *Summer of the Gypsy Moths*. She wrote the picture books *Meet the Dullards*, the Golden Kite Award-winning *Pierre in Love*, and *Sparrow Girl*. She founded the ShareOurBooks.org program, which lends books provided by authors for community reads.

**Keynote Speaker**



### Andrea Davis Pinkney @AndreaDavisPink

Andrea Davis Pinkney is *The New York Times* best-selling and award-winning author of more than 30 picture books, novels, and works of historical fiction and nonfiction books for children and young adults. Andrea's new book, *Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound*, is a comprehensive look at African-American music and its impact on social justice. Additional nonfiction works include *Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song*, an NAACP Image Award nominee, and *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America*, recipient of the Coretta Scott King Author Award medal, a *New York Times* Notable Book, and a Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best." Andrea's novel, *The Red Pencil*, received five starred reviews and is a *New York Times* Notable Book, a *New York Times* Editors' pick, a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year, and a Bank Street Best Book. A film based on the novel is currently in development.

**Workshop: Decoding Diversity: Fostering Inclusiveness and Joy Through Independent Reading**



### Jewell Parker Rhodes @jewell\_p\_rhodes

Jewell Parker Rhodes is the award-winning author of *Ninth Ward*, *Bayou Magic*, and *Sugar*. Her writing guides include: *Free Within Ourselves: Fiction Lessons for Black Authors* and *The African American Guide to Writing and Publishing Nonfiction*. Her forthcoming novel for young readers is *Towers Falling*, a story about 9/11 set 15 years later. Her honors include the American Book Award, the National Endowment of the Arts Award in Fiction, the Black Caucus of the American Library Award for Literary Excellence, the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for Outstanding Writing, and two Arizona Book Awards.

**Keynote Speaker**



### John Schumacher @MrSchuReads

John Schumacher (AKA Mr. Schu) is a blogger, a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, and the Ambassador of School Libraries for Scholastic Book Fairs®. He has served on the 2014 Newbery Committee, ALSC's Children and Technology Committee, AASL's Best Websites For Teachers and Learning, two readers choice award committees, and the School Library Month Planning Committee. *Library Journal* named him "The Xtreme Librarian" for the high level of exertion – along with some gears and stunts – he uses to get kids reading, and *Instructor Magazine* named him a Cool Teacher for redefining what it means to be a teacher-librarian.

**Workshop: Breakfast With Mr. Schu (All Locations)**

**Workshop: School Librarians: Champions of Change (All Locations)**

**Workshop: Ambassador Schu's Review of Books for You and Your Readers, Too! (All Locations)**

# 2016 Reading Summit Workshop Presenters Gallery

## PRESENTERS

### Cynthia Alaniz

Cynthia Alaniz has taught in the elementary classroom for more than 20 years using Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop and is currently a school librarian in Coppell, Texas. Cynthia has a strong and undying passion for reading and books and calls herself a children's literature enthusiast. She is the author of the blog *Librarian in Cute Shoes*. She is active in the American Library Association, the Texas Library Association, Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC), and the Children's Literature Assembly (NCTE).

**Workshop:** *Picture Book Perfection: Creating Meaningful Reading Experiences for Young Readers*



### Marc Aronson

Marc Aronson has been an author and editor of award-winning books for children and teenagers for more than 25 years. He was the first winner of the Robert F. Sibert medal from the American Library Association for excellence in informational books for readers through eighth grade. Marc is currently an assistant teaching professor in the Master of Information program at Rutgers University and is working on a YA history of New York City as a place of transformation and change through the stories of four streets and a square.

**Workshop:** *The Seven Habits of Highly Impactful Librarians*



### Steve Black

Joining Scholastic in 1991, Steve Black currently directs the Teacher Preview Program while writing and recording booktalk scripts and podcasts for customers and employees. He regularly delivers webinar training sessions, as well as conducts live booktalk and product presentations for teachers, students, parents, and coworkers. Steve has participated in the Scholastic Book Fairs® Book Selection Committee for more than 10 years and is an expert on children's literature.

**Workshop:** *Booktalking: Transforming Dormant to Passionate Readers*



### Stephanie Brant

Stephanie Brant currently serves as the principal of Gaithersburg Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Maryland. She works to inspire readers, problem-solvers, and critical thinkers who are competitive learners in the 21st century. Prior to becoming an administrator, Stephanie taught first and second grade, and also taught Reading Recovery, an intense intervention program that served struggling readers. As a teacher, Stephanie focused on literacy and building lifelong learners.

**Workshop:** *The Power of Independent Reading: A Case Study of Gaithersburg, MD Elementary School (Leesburg)*

**Workshop:** *Raising the Student Achievement Bar With Independent Reading (Charlotte)*



### Jenni Brasington

Jenni Brasington is the director of consultative services at Scholastic and a founding partner of the Center for Active Family Engagement (Café). As director of family and community engagement for Acelero Learning, a large Head Start grantee, she developed innovative family engagement tools and provided training, technical assistance, and coaching with internal family engagement teams and a network of external partners. She is the author of *The Family Friendly Walk-Through* and the co-author of *The Family Engagement Assessment*.

**Workshop:** *Building the Capacity of Families to Engage in Children's Literacy*



### Dr. Pat Cavanaugh

Dr. Pat Cavanaugh has served as an administrator for the past nine years with seven as an elementary principal in Troy, Michigan. He places a strong emphasis on building a positive reading culture in his preschool through fifth grade school. He leads two before-school reading programs three days a week, in addition to teaching once a week in the classroom. During the summer, Pat leads a bookmobile that delivers free books to his students. Pat's Ph.D. dissertation focused on the transition to kindergarten and the views of kindergarten teachers' perceptions of readiness.

**Workshop:** *The Transition to Kindergarten: Implementing a System that Links Students, Families, and Staff*







### Kris-Ann Florence

Kris-Ann Florence loves teaching readers and writers and has a passion for using children's literature in all contents of her classroom. She is currently teaching second grade at Zaharis Elementary School. Kris-Ann has conducted reading and writing presentations at conferences around the country and has taught professional development seminars about teaching and learning with inquiry.

**Workshop:** *Inspire, Instill, Ignite: Sparking a Love for Reading in Your Classroom!*



### Dr. L. Robert Furman

Dr. L. Robert Furman ED.D. is the principal at South Park Elementary Center in South Park, Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Instructional Technology Tools and Reading, Technology, and Digital Literacy*. His research in the field of literacy was recently awarded Best Research and Publication by PASCD. Rob is a blogger for the *Huffington Post*, *Ed Tech Review*, and a producer for The Seditionists Education Video Series. Rob was honored as a national "20 to Watch" in educational technology by the National School Board Association.

**Workshop:** *Reading, Technology, and Digital Literacy: How to Help the Striving Reader*



### Caroline Gaynor

Caroline Gaynor has more than 20 years of teaching experience at the primary, intermediate, and university levels. She has served as a Teacher On Special Assignment for the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada, and as the literacy coach at the Manhattan New School in New York City. She has presented at reading and writing conferences throughout the country and has consulted in all areas of literacy, both nationally and internationally. Presently, she is a second grade teacher at Zaharis Elementary School in Arizona.

**Workshop:** *Inspire, Instill, Ignite: Sparking a Love for Reading in Your Classroom!*



### Dr. Steven Geis

Dr. Steven Geis taught American history before he became principal of Farmington Middle School West in 1999. In 2005 he became principal of North Trail Elementary School and has taught graduate classes for St. Mary's University. Currently he is serving on the board of directors of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) and as the president-elect of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). One of his educational goals is to have all students reading at their grade level.

**Workshop:** *Raising the Student Achievement Bar With Independent Reading*



### Diane Gough

Diane Gough is the principal of Hewitt Elementary School in Midway ISD. Diana taught at the elementary level for 16 years and has served as an instructional technologist, assistant principal, director of special education, and principal. Diane has been instrumental in bringing many new programs to the district, including Rachel's Challenge anti-bullying program and an independent reading plan for her campus. She was chosen to participate in the Harvard Leadership Program through Raise Your Hand Texas and was recently named the National Distinguished Principal of Texas for 2015.

**Workshop:** *Raising the Achievement Bar With Independent Reading*



### Heather Habrecht

Literacy instruction takes center stage at Heather's school in suburban Dublin, Ohio. "We focus on a well-rounded literacy workshop model that includes four phases of instruction: a modeling/demonstration phase, a shared phase, an assisted instructional phase, and an independent phase. These instructional phases are evident throughout the reading and writing workshop," shares Heather, a principal for nine years and an educator for 15. Literacy instruction times may include a focused mini-lesson, guided and independent practice, independent reading, small-group instruction, a read-aloud, word study, and a share-and-reflect time. "Our goal is to maximize the time students are engaged in targeted meaningful work," Heather says.

**Workshop:** *iDEAL: Inspiring, Developing, Empowering, Assessing, and Leading an Independent Reading Culture*

## Susan Haney

Susan Haney loves being the principal at Parma Elementary School in Parma, Michigan, where she has been since 2005. Prior to working with the Western School District, Susan was a middle and high school English and psychology teacher at Vandercook Lake Schools. She also spent a few years as a guidance counselor, building administrator, and curriculum director.

**Workshop:** *Falling in Love With Reading: A Journey Through the Lens of a Third Grade Classroom*



## Robin Hoffman

Robin Hoffman founded the Children's Book Connection in 1981 with a curated collection of books for preschool to eighth grade students. She joined Scholastic Book Fairs® in 1992 and leads the booktalk and podcast programs, helping educators and families share books with children of all ages.

**Workshop:** *Booktalking: Transforming Dormant to Passionate Readers*



## Sylvia Ibarra

Sylvia Ibarra is a lifelong educator with 26 years of experience in public education. She has worked as a teacher, counselor, and bilingual director in previous jobs. Currently, Sylvia serves as principal at Jackson Elementary School in McAllen, Texas, a Title I school serving 800 students. As a school principal, she wholeheartedly believes that literacy is the single most important skill that students need to acquire to learn across all subjects. Therefore, she strives to instill a love for reading in her students and encourages them to read on a daily basis.

**Workshop:** *Raising the Achievement Bar With Independent Reading*



## Paige Jaeger

Paige Jaeger is an author, editor, speaker, and former school administrator. She spent 12 years as a teacher-librarian at both the elementary and secondary levels. Paige earnestly believes educators need to challenge students to think.

**Workshop:** *The Seven Habits of Highly Impactful Librarians*



## Marci Lang

Marci Lang is a sixth grade teacher at Zaharis Elementary School in Mesa, Arizona. As an educator for more than 18 years, Marci has a passion for teaching and a special love for children's literature. A former faculty associate at Arizona State University, Marci has led teacher workshops and professional development sessions across the country on reading aloud, readers' and writers' workshops, and learning through inquiry. She uses books in her classroom to build relationships with her students, engage and motivate them, and cultivate their love of reading.

**Workshop:** *Inspire, Instill, Ignite: Sparking a Love for Reading in Your Classroom!*



## Anne Lee

Anne Lee joined Scholastic Book Fairs® in 2000. As the senior leader of independent reading advocacy, she currently is responsible for developing outreach programs for school principals, teachers, and families and also serves as a company spokesperson for Read and Rise, a research-based early literacy program designed to make reading a habit at home. She serves as a foundation board member of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and works to promote and advance elementary and middle-level education through advocacy for school administrators. She is honored to serve as a LitWorld Advisory Council member and to lobby for the global rights of all children to be literate and develop a love of reading.

**Workshop:** *Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going.*





## Amy Mascott

Amy Mascott is the creator of teachmama.com where, since 2008, she has shared tools and resources parents can use to become the best teachers they can be for their children. A reading specialist, writer, and literacy consultant, Amy's work has been featured on dozens of online and print publications, including Scholastic Parents, PBS Parents, readwritethink.org, PBS Digital Studios, and more. A former high school English teacher, Amy often shares her expertise at local and national conferences and events.

*Workshop: Rock Star Readers at School and Home*



## Barbara Masley

Barbara Masley has served as an elementary teacher, curriculum specialist, instructional coach, and elementary principal. She also designed professional development for high school instructional coaches focusing on reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, and served as an instructional reading coach for elementary schools. She currently works as an educational consultant for Scholastic Book Fairs® where she has developed and facilitated interactive workshops supporting family involvement in literacy development and independent reading.

*Workshop: iTEXT: Using Text Features to Navigate Informational Text (Charlotte, San Antonio, Covington)*

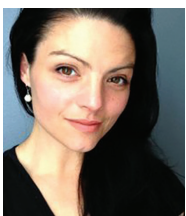
*Workshop: Raising Readers: The Positive Power of Family Involvement (Charlotte)*



## Diane McDaniel

Diane McDaniel is the librarian at River Valley Intermediate School in Midway ISD where she has implemented a successful booktalking program for students. Diane has taught in special education classes, reading resource classes, and the general education classroom in first through eighth grades. She has served as coordinator for a language arts program, developed and presented seminars on the benefits of literature-based instruction, was instrumental in developing and implementing a program for gifted students, and taught reading methods courses at St. Mary College in Kansas.

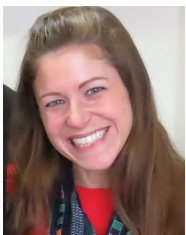
*Workshop: Raising the Achievement Bar with Independent Reading*



## Allison McDonald

Allison McDonald is a preschool teacher and the mom behind the popular early education website No Time For Flash Cards. Allison worked as a reading tutor and volunteered as a buddy reader for underprivileged children. When she paused her teaching career to start her family, she started her website and filled it with hands-on activities to help parents and teachers. Allison began writing the *Raise a Reader* blog on Scholastic Parents with Amy Mascott in 2012. Now that she is back in a classroom, she is eager to help even more children fall in love with books.

*Workshop: Rock Star Readers at School and Home*



## Anne Atwell Merkel

Anne Atwell Merkel has taught seventh and eighth grade writing, reading, and history at the Center for Teaching and Learning since 2013. She taught sixth grade English in Washington, D.C. and spent three years teaching grades sixth through eighth language arts at Friends Community School in College Park, Maryland. Anne conducts presentations about her work at National Council of Teachers of English conventions. She also coordinates the Center for Teaching and Learning's intern program for visiting teachers who wish to adopt the school's award-winning methods for teaching, writing, and reading.

*Keynote Speaker*



## Todd Nesloney

Todd Nesloney is the principal/lead learner of Webb Elementary School in Navasota, Texas. He is the 2015 Bammy Award Recipient for Elementary Principal, the 2014 Award Winner for Classroom Teacher of the Year, the TCEA Teacher of the Year for 2014, a White House Champion of Change, a National School Board Association "20 to Watch," and Center for Digital Education "Top 40 Innovators in Education." Todd is the author of the children's book *Spruce & Lucy* and the co-author of the award-winning book, *Flipping 2.0*. He also co-hosts the popular education podcast series "EduAllStars."

*Workshop: Falling in Love with Reading Campus-Wide*

## Sandi Novak

Sandi Novak has been a teacher, principal, curriculum director, and an assistant superintendent. She currently works as a consultant for Scholastic Book Fairs®, as well as individual school districts, and is the author of *Student-Led Discussions*. She has two books scheduled for release in summer 2016: *Let Us Talk: Giving Students a Voice Through Student-Led Discussions* and *Literacy Classroom Visits: A Leader's Guide to Effective Reading Instruction*. In April 2016 she released a digital course in partnership with Scholastic and ASCD on developing a whole-school culture for independent reading.

**Workshop:** *iDEAL: Inspiring, Developing, Empowering, Assessing, and Leading an Independent Reading Culture (AM); Workshop: Let's Talk! Students Talking About Books (PM)*



## Mike Oliver

Mike Oliver is the progressive principal of Zaharis Elementary School in Mesa, Arizona. He is passionate about theory and practice, teaching and learning, and has taken a stand with innovation in his public school. Strongly grounded in learning theory, Mike believes, as Dewey did, that “learning is life” and encourages authentic learning and teaching, taking an inquiry stance and workshop pedagogy.

**Workshop:** *Inspire, Instill, Ignite: Sparking a Love for Reading in Your Classroom!*



## Dr. Kimberly Parker

Dr. Kimberly N. Parker currently teaches English at the Cambridge, Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She believes in the promise of underserved young people and is currently piloting a program to increase the number of students of color in honors English classes. Kim has received several honors, including the Marion Gleason Most Promising New Teacher Award from the New England Association of Teachers of English (NEATE) and was named one of five Literacy Champions from the Massachusetts Literacy Council. She is the former Secondary Representative At Large for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and a current Trustee for the NCTE Research Foundation. She is the current president of NEATE.

**Workshop:** *Beyond a Magical Year: Designing Cohesive Independent Reading Experiences for Students*



## Dr. Michael Shaffer

Dr. Michael Shaffer is a veteran principal and district educational leader who is currently focusing on the development and training of principals and superintendents through the Ed Leadership Department at Ball State University as an assistant professor. His major professional passion is getting books in the hands of students and teaching them to love reading. Michael has successfully led schools and districts in significant school improvement processes.

**Workshop:** *BC4BOYZ: Getting Boys to Read*



## Colby Sharp

Colby Sharp is a third grade teacher in Parma, Michigan. He's a husband, a father, and a middle school football coach. Colby is the co-founder of the blog, *Nerdy Book Club*. He co-hosts the monthly Twitter chats #Titletalk with Donalyn Miller, and the #SharpSchu Twitter book club with John Schumacher. He is also the co-creator of Nerd Camp.

**Workshop:** *Falling in Love With Reading: A Journey Through the Lens of a Third Grade Classroom*



## Katherine Sokolowski

Katherine Sokolowski has taught for 20 years—from kindergarten through sixth grade—and currently teaches fifth grade in Monticello, Illinois. Her thoughts about the power of relationships to engage readers and writers have appeared on NPR and Choice Literacy. She co-facilitates the *Nerdy Book Club* blog and also blogs at [readwriteandreflect.blogspot.com](http://readwriteandreflect.blogspot.com).

**Workshop:** *Audience Matters: Engaging Student Readers Through Community*







## Evan St. Lifer

Evan St. Lifer is vice president of digital initiatives and new business development for Scholastic. In addition to his work for Scholastic Library Publishing, Evan has also headed up product development for the Scholastic Classroom Group, yielding award-winning products including BookFlix, Cozy Corner, and Scholastic's After School Learning program. Prior to coming to Scholastic, he was editor-in-chief of *School Library Journal* (SLJ). Evan is committed to helping identify, build, and most importantly, scale the most dynamic and effective models of school library practice that have the greatest impact on student learning. He continues to be a fervent believer and advocate for ensuring that "school libraries, run by dynamic teacher/librarians, are woven into the learning fabric of every school." It was this desire to help create a pervasive culture of excellence and improved learning outcomes that drove him to create and launch the School Library Journal Leadership Summit and Curriculum Connections while at SLJ.

**Workshop:** *The Seven Habits of Highly Impactful Librarians (All Locations)*



## Lauren Tarshis

Lauren Tarshis has spent the past 25 years creating content designed to engage and inspire kids, with a special focus on struggling and reluctant readers. She is the author of Scholastic's I Survived historical fiction series. Lauren is vice president group editor of *Scholastic Classroom* magazines, and the long-time editor of the award-winning *Storyworks* magazine, which has more than one million readers in grades four through five. The newly developed *Storyworks Jr*, for third grade will launch in September 2016.

**Workshop:** *The Nonfiction Reading Kit: Strategies for Engaging Readers With Short Nonfiction*



## Marsha Thauwald

Marsha Thauwald has been in education for 38 years. She has been an elementary teacher, elementary principal, assistant superintendent, and university professor. She is currently working as an education consultant and the district mentor coordinator for Midway ISD. Marsha has written many educational professional learning sessions that she has presented in conferences at the state and national levels. She recently published her first middle grade fiction novel in June 2015 — *Big Southern Hair & Highlights*. She is a member of the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA).

**Workshop:** *Raising the Student Achievement Bar With Independent Reading*



## Joyce Valenza

After completing 25 years of joyful practice as a teacher librarian in K-12 education, Joyce Valenza joined the faculty of Rutgers University where she is an assistant teaching professor in the Master of Information program. Joyce has worked in special, public, and school libraries. She writes the *Neverending Search* Blog for *School Library Journal* and contributes to several other library and edtech publications. Joyce is active in AASL, ALA, and ISTE and considers herself one of the godmothers of the #tlchat network.

**Workshop:** *The Seven Habits of Highly Impactful Librarians*



## Sherri Wilson

Sherri Wilson is the director of consultative services at Scholastic and is a founding partner of the Center for Active Family Engagement (Café). Formerly, she served as the senior manager of family engagement at the National PTA, where she oversaw the implementation of the National PTA Standards for Family School Partnerships and led the Urban Family Engagement Initiative. She provided training, information, and support to National PTA staff, as well as state and local members, related to family engagement and the implementation of the National PTA Standards for Family School Partnerships.

**Workshop:** *Building the Capacity of Families to Engage in Children's Literacy*