

2017 Reading Summit Keynote Speakers Gallery



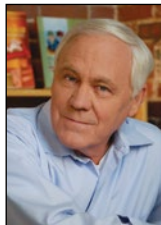
KWAME ALEXANDER • Chicago

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and *New York Times* best-selling author of 21 books, including *Booked* and *The Crossover*, which received the 2015 John Newbery Medal for the Most Distinguished Contribution to American literature for Children, the Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor, The NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor, the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, and the Paterson Poetry Prize. Kwame writes for children of all ages. His other works include: *Surf 's Up*, a picture book; *Crush: Love Poems for Teenagers*; and *He Said She Said*, a young adult novel.

Alexander believes that poetry can change the world, and he uses it to inspire and empower young people through *Kwame Alexander's Page-to-Stage Writing Workshop**, published by Scholastic (2015).

Recently, he served as the Children's Literature's Inaugural Dorothy Carter Writer-in-Residence at The Bank Street College of Education Center.

A regular speaker at schools and conferences, he travels the world planting seeds of literary love. Each year, Alexander leads a delegation of writers, educators, and activists to Ghana as part of LEAP for Ghana, an International literacy program he co-founded that builds libraries and provides literacy professional development for teachers. [Learn more about Kwame Alexander and purchase his book in the digital Guidebook.*](#)



DR. KYLENE BEERS and ROBERT E. PROBST • Houston

Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst are the co-authors of the best-selling book *Notice and Note: Strategies for Close Reading* (Heinemann, 2013), as well as other popular titles, including *When Kids Can't Read/What Teachers Can Do* (Kylene), *Response and Analysis* (Bob), and *Adolescent Literacy: Turning Promise into Practice* (Kylene and Bob with Linda Rief). Their most recent book is *Disrupting Thinking: Why How We Read Matters** (Scholastic, 2017).

Kylene began her teaching career in middle school in the Houston area and Bob began in junior high and high school in the Baltimore area. Both have taught at the university level: Bob at Georgia State University and Kylene at the University of Houston.

Throughout their careers, they have worked tirelessly to help connect children and teens to literacy. While their focus has been working with struggling readers, they also help teachers who work with English-language learners, gifted students, and special education students. Highly popular speakers and consultants throughout the US and Canada, Kylene is a past president of the National Council of Teachers of English and Bob is a former member of the NCTE Commission on Reading. You can reach them at beers.probst@gmail.com and connect with them on Twitter at @kylenebeers and @bobprobst.



KATE DICAMILLO • Chicago

Kate Dicamillo is the author of many beloved books for young readers, including *Flora & Ulysses* and *The Tale of Despereaux*, each of which received a Newbery Medal; *Because of Winn-Dixie*, which received a Newbery Honor; *The Tiger Rising*, a National Book Award Finalist; *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, winner of a Boston Globe–Horn Book Award; *The Magician's Elephant*; *Raymie Nightingale*; and the best-selling Mercy Watson series. Born in Philadelphia, she grew up in Florida and now lives in Minneapolis, where she faithfully writes two pages a day, five days a week.

Check out Kate on [facebook.com/KateDiCamillo](https://www.facebook.com/KateDiCamillo)*.

* For more information, visit our digital Guidebook: bookfairsfiles.scholastic.com/flippingbooks/2017-Summit-Guidebook/2017-Summit-Guidebook.html



JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA • Houston

Jarrett J. Krosoczka has been passionate about storytelling through words and pictures since he was a kid. Jarrett is a two-time winner of the Children's Choice Book Award and has been a finalist for the prestigious Will Eisner Comic Industry Award. He is the author and/or illustrator of more than 25 books for young readers, including the *New York Times* best-selling *Star Wars Jedi Academy: A New Class*. Jarrett's books have also been recommended by national publications such as *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*. He has delivered two TED Talks, which have collectively accrued more than 2 million views online. Krosoczka has been featured on NPR and can be heard weekly on *The Book Report with JJK* on SiriusXM's *Kids Place Live*, a show focusing on books, authors, and reading. His *Punk Farm*, *Lunch Lady*, and *Platypus Police Squad* series are all currently in development for film. Jarrett lives in western Massachusetts with family.



LESTER L. LAMINACK • Raleigh-Durham

Lester L. Laminack is professor emeritus at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, where he received two awards for excellence in teaching. He is now a full-time writer and consultant working with schools throughout the United States. Lester is an active member of the National Council of Teachers of English and served as co-editor of *Primary Voices* and the children's book review column of *Language Arts*. He also served as a teaching editor for the magazine *Teaching K-8* and wrote the Parent Connection column. He is a former member of the Whole Language Umbrella Governing Board, the governing board and secretary of the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children, and the board of directors for the Center for the Expansion of Language and Thinking. Lester served as the basic reading consultant to Literacy Volunteers of America from 1987 through 2001 and as a member of the board of directors of Our Children's Place [ourchildrensplace.com]. He is the current column editor for The Writing Department of the ILA journal, *The Reading Teacher*.

His academic publications include several books: *Learning with Zachary* (Scholastic), *Spelling in Use* (NCTE), *Volunteers Working with Young Readers* (NCTE), and his contributions to *The Writing Workshop: Working Through the Hard Parts* (NCTE), *Learning Under the Influence of Language and Literature* (Heinemann), *Reading Aloud Across the Curriculum* (Heinemann), *The Writing Teacher's Troubleshooting Guide* (Heinemann), *Writers ARE Readers* (Heinemann), *Bullying Hurts* (Heinemann), *Cracking Open the Author's Craft* (Scholastic), and *Unwrapping the Read Aloud* (Scholastic). His newest work with Scholastic is *The Ultimate Read-Aloud Resource: Making Every Moment Intentional and Instructional With Best Friend Books** (2016) and *Best Friend Fiction Kits for Grades K-5** (2016). In addition, he has several articles published in journals such as *The Reading Teacher*, *Early Years*, *Language Arts*, *Teaching pre-K/8*, and *Young Children*. Lester is also the author of six children's books: *The Sunsets of Miss Olivia Wiggins*, *Trevor's Wiggly-Wobbly Tooth*, *Saturdays and Tea Cakes*, *Jake's 100th Day of School*, *Snow Day!*, *Three Hens and a Peacock*, and a forthcoming title, *The King of Bees* (all from Peachtree Publishers).

Lester earned a B.S. and M.S. in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama, and an Ed.D. in Elementary Education and Reading from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. [Learn more about Lester Laminack and purchase his book in the digital Guidebook.*](#)

Workshop: When Books Become Best Friends: One Book/Many Visits (Chicago AM & PM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going (Raleigh - PM Panelist)

* For more information, visit our digital Guidebook:
bookfairsfiles.scholastic.com/flippingbooks/2017-Summit-Guidebook/2017-Summit-Guidebook.html



DONALYN MILLER • All Locations

Donalyn Miller taught upper-elementary and middle school students in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and was a finalist for 2010 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year. In her popular book, *The Book Whisperer*, Donalyn reflects on her journey to become a reading teacher and describes how she inspires and motivates her middle school students to read 40 or more books a year. In her latest book, *Reading in the Wild*, Donalyn collects responses from 900 adult readers and uses this information to teach lifelong reading habits to her students. Donalyn co-founded the community blog *The Nerdy Book Club* and co-hosts the monthly Twitter chat, #titletalk. Her articles about teaching and reading have appeared in publications such as *Education Week Teacher*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Educational Leadership*, and *The Washington Post*. Donalyn serves as the manager of independent reading and outreach at Scholastic Book Fairs® where she also hosts

*The Book Whisperer: Back to the Books** web show and co-edits the *Reader Leader** blog.

Workshop: Access to Books: Game Changer for Kids (All Locations - AM)

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



ERNEST MORRELL • Washington D.C.

Ernest Morrell is an award-winning author, teacher, and researcher, and is the Macy Professor of English Education and Director of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Teachers College at Columbia University. Ernest is also past-president of the National Council of Teachers of English, a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and an appointed member of International Literacy Association's Literacy Research Panel. In 2016, Ernest was ranked among the top 100 university-based education scholars in the RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings. Ernest was an award-winning English teacher and coach in northern California who now works with schools and after-school programs across the country to infuse social and emotional learning, digital technologies, project-based learning, and multicultural literature into empowering literacy practices in K-12 classrooms.

Ernest is the author of more than 75 articles and book chapters, and eight books, including *Every Child a Super Reader: 7 Strengths to Open a World of Possible**, *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. Ernest has earned numerous commendations for his secondary and university teaching, including being nominated five times for Who's Who Among America's High School teachers and receiving UCLA's Department of Education's Distinguished Teaching Award. Morrell earned his Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Culture from the University of California at Berkeley where he received the Outstanding Dissertation Award. Ernest also proudly sits on the Executive Boards of LitWorld and the Education for Democracy Institute.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Raleigh - PM Panelist)



JEWELL PARKER RHODES • Raleigh-Durham / Washington D.C.

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*. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Jewell now lives in California. She is the Virginia G. Piper Chair in Creative Writing at Arizona State University.

Her most recent novel for young readers is *Towers Falling*, a story about 9/11 set 15 years later. Jewell wrote this story realizing that so many born after 2001 could not put the tragedy into context. Her work has been published in Germany, Italy, Canada, Turkey, and the United Kingdom and reproduced in audio and for NPR's "Selected Shorts."

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.

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DAV PILKEY • Seattle

When Dav Pilkey was a kid, he suffered from ADHD, dyslexia, and behavioral problems. Dav was so disruptive in class that his teachers made him sit out in the hall every day. Luckily, Dav loved to draw and make up stories, so he spent his time in the hallway creating his own original comic books. When he was in second grade, Dav Pilkey created a comic book about a superhero named Captain Underpants. His teacher ripped it up and told him he couldn't spend the rest of his life making silly books. Fortunately, Dav was not a very good listener. His Captain Underpants series has more than 70 million copies in print worldwide

and has been translated into more than 25 languages. DreamWorks Animation will release the feature film adaptation of *Captain Underpants* on June 2, 2017. *Captain Underpants* has previously topped the American Library Association's "Most Banned Books" list for two consecutive years. In addition to *Captain Underpants*, Dav is also the creator of *The Paperboy*, which won a Caldecott Honor; the California Young Reader Medal-winning *Dog Breath*; and the author of the best-selling Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot series. Dav continues to create books in the Pacific Northwest where he lives with his wife. For more information about Dav Pilkey and his books, visit: planetpilkey.com.



ANNIE WARD • Seattle

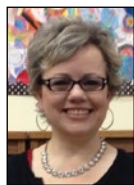
Annie Ward has served as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Mamaroneck Public Schools in Westchester County in New York since 2004. Prior to that, she was a local instructional superintendent for the New York City Department of Education and the supervisor of curriculum and instruction for the New Jersey Public Schools in Ridgewood. Annie is the author of *From Striving to Thriving: How to Grow Confident, Capable Readers** (Scholastic, 2017) which demonstrates how to "table the labels" and use detailed formative assessments to craft targeted, personalized instruction that enable striving readers to do what they need above all — to find books they love and engage in voluminous reading.

A long-time middle school English teacher, Annie's passion for children's books was sparked early on by read-alouds (Mom: *The Secret Garden*; Dad: *O Henry* short stories; 5th grade teacher Miss Charney: *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*) and her apprenticeship to Heddie Kent, the wildly charismatic librarian in the children's room of the public library in Lincoln, Massachusetts. Annie collects nonfiction books about dogs and unusual animal friendships which captivate striving readers.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going (Seattle - PM Panelist)

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2017 Reading Summit Workshop Presenters Gallery



CYNTHIA ALANIZ taught in the elementary school classroom for more than 20 years using Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop. She is currently an elementary school librarian in Coppell, Texas, and enjoys supporting her students and teachers as they pursue their own learning and interests. She has a strong and undying passion for reading and books, and she calls herself a "children's literature enthusiast." She is the author of the blog *Librarian in Cute Shoes* and is active in the American Library Association, the Texas Library Association, Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC), the American Library Association, and the Children's Literature Assembly (NCTE). She believes in the power of books to change lives because she believes they have changed hers.

Workshop: A Closer Look at the Picture Book (Houston PM)



STEVE BLACK joined Scholastic in 1991. As manager of product programs at Scholastic, Steve currently directs the Book Fair Preview program while writing and recording booktalk scripts and podcasts. He regularly delivers webinar training sessions and conducts live booktalk and product presentations for teachers, students, parents, and coworkers.

Workshop: Booktalking: Transforming Dormant to Passionate Readers (Raleigh PM) (Houston PM)



BRANDON BLOM is the principal and lead dreamer of Stoneridge Elementary School in Roseville, California. He is passionate about making school fun for students and staff, as well as looking critically at what schools do to meet the needs of all students. Brandon has been a CUE Rockstar presenter, NAESP presenter, and keynote speaker. He has written about why teachers need to be taken care of, why his school no longer uses computer-based reading systems, and how his school has moved away from old homework policies.

Workshop: Building a Love of Reading Campus-Wide (Houston AM & PM) (Seattle AM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Seattle PM – Panelist)



STEPHANIE BRANT currently serves as the proud principal of Woodfield Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Prior to becoming a principal at Woodfield, she served as the principal at Gaithersburg Elementary School, principal intern at Fox Chapel Elementary School in Germantown, and the assistant principal at Lucy V. Barnsley Elementary School in Rockville. Before coming to Montgomery County Public Schools, Stephanie worked in Fairfax County as an assistant principal. Prior to becoming an administrator, Stephanie taught first and second grade, as well as taught Reading Recovery, an intense intervention program that served struggling readers. As a teacher, Stephanie focused on literacy and building life-long learners and works in her current position to inspire readers, problem solvers, and critical thinkers who are competitive learners in the 21st century. Her transparency, commitment to literacy, and community engagement have been key factors to her success. **Workshop: Creating a School Wide Literacy Culture: A Case Study (DC AM)**

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (DC PM - Panelist)



BECKY CALZADA is the district library coordinator in Leander ISD, a fast-growth school district just northwest of Austin, Texas. She's been an educator for 30 years, with the last 17 years of her career as a librarian in Texas. She strives to continuously improve, build relationships, and support the teachers, librarians, and administrators in her district while learning about library design, technology integration, literacy best practices, and leadership.

Becky provides staff development in her district and has presented at the Texas ASCD conference, TCEA Librarian's Academy, and Texas Library Association Conference. She is a co-moderator of #TXLCHAT, a Twitter chat forum primarily, but not limited to, Texas librarians to build PLN's to share ideas and resources while expanding her learning network. She is past-chair of Texas Library Association-School Library Division. In her leisure, Becky enjoys reading to her grandkids and finding new books to read and share with others.

Workshop: Creating Opportunities for Sharing Literacy with Students & Teachers (Houston AM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Houston PM – Panelist)



ANDREA DAVIS PINKNEY Born into a family of storytellers, Andrea Davis Pinkney was destined to become a writer. Today she is *The New York Times* best-selling and award-winning author of more than 30 books for children and young adults, including picture books, novels, and works of historical fiction and nonfiction. Andrea’s new book, *A Poem for Peter*, celebrates the life and times of Ezra Jack Keats, the creator of the classic children’s book *The Snowy Day*. Additional nonfiction works include *Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip through the Motown Sound*, *Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song*, both NAACP Image Award nominees, 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 also 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.

Andrea is a graduate of Syracuse University’s Newhouse School of Public Communications and is a former member of the Newhouse School’s Board of Trustees. She lives in New York City with her husband, award-winning illustrator Brian Pinkney, and their two children.

Workshop: Decoding Diversity: Fostering Inclusiveness and Joy Through Independent Reading (DC AM)



CHAD EVERETT currently serves as a middle school language arts teacher in north Mississippi. He is a self-proclaimed literacy and technology geek. His knowledge of effective technology practices to enhance student learning, coupled with his passion for literacy, makes him a significant resource in the school districts with which he works. Previously serving as an instructional technology specialist and educator in student discipline, where he examined the power of restorative discipline practices to transform the student discipline process, he brings all he has learned from his previous roles to his practice with students.

He is also deeply involved with community adult literacy, believing the change needed to transform education extends beyond the school’s walls. Chad serves on the volunteer council and tutors with Literacy Mid-South. He is also a member of The Educator Collaborative, a think-tank and educational consulting organization working to innovate the ways educators learn together.

Workshop: Developing Identity and Empathy through Independent Reading (Raleigh PM) (Seattle PM)



DR. JANET FAWCETT’S career in education spans more than 25 years — 13 of which have been spent as a principal, and 10 as head of Highlands Elementary School, situated in a diverse urban community outside of Seattle. Taking a student-centered approach, Janet works diligently with her team to support English language learners, increase the level of parental involvement, and help her students read at grade-level.

Reading was and continues to be such a strong emphasis at Highlands Elementary School that the school tallied more than 400,000 reading minutes in the 2016 Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, making Highlands Elementary School number one in Washington state for the sixth year in a row.

Janet currently serves as the executive director of student support for the Renton School District. She oversees special education services, counseling, and MTSS. Literacy continues to be a focus for her as she works to ensure high-quality learning opportunities for each student.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We’ve Been. Where We’re Going. (Seattle PM – Panelist)



KRIS-ANN FLORENCE loves teaching readers and writers. She is focused on best practices and is always learning and using ways to support and inspire readers. She has a passion for children’s literature and using it in her classroom in all content areas. She is currently teaching second grade at Zaharis Elementary School in Mesa, Arizona. She has presented about reading and writing at conferences around the country and has taught professional development seminars about teaching and learning with inquiry.

Workshop: Dribble, Shoot, Score: Winning the Game of Supporting Independent Reading (DC AM & PM)



DR. STEVEN GEIS taught American History before he became principal of Farmington Middle School West in 1999 and earned his doctoral of educational leadership in 2004. In 2005, he became principal of North Trail Elementary School and a professor at St. Mary's University. Currently, he is serving on the board of directors of the MN Association of Elementary School Principals (MESPA) and as the president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Dr. Geis is most proud of his students. He loves witnessing how much they are learning and loving to read. "Our parents and community create a climate of cooperation with our school where student possibilities are endless," he says. As a principal, his greatest concern is meeting the needs of every student and focusing on literacy. One of his educational goals is to have all students reading at their grade level.

Dr. Steven Geis is the proud parent of Faith, Claire, Sophie, and Matthew. Together with Kathy, the six enjoy quality time volunteering, traveling, and spending time at the farm.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Seattle PM – Panelist)



DR. BRAD GUSTAFSON is an elementary school principal, author, and speaker. His passion for learning is palpable. He's known for global collaboration on projects, such as the "30-Second Book Talk" video series and the "World Book Talk" powered by augmented reality. Brad is Minnesota's 2016 National Distinguished Principal and a 2015 Digital Innovation in Learning Award (DILA) winner. His school was awarded the 2015 Local Government Innovation (LGI) Award from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Brad co-hosts the "UnearthED" program on the Bam Radio Network. His blog, *Adjusting Course*, was named a "Must Read" K-12 blog by *EdTech* magazine and was also recognized with an Editor's Choice Content Award by Smartbrief Education.

Brad recently released a new book, *Renegade Leadership: Creating Innovative Schools for Digital-Age Students*. You can connect with him on Twitter @GustafsonBrad or find more information on his blog at BradGustafson.com.

Workshop: Booktalking: Transforming Dormant to Passionate Readers (DC AM & PM)



MICHAEL HAGGEN has more than 20 years of academic experience, having served as a teacher, principal, chief academic officer, and direct report to superintendents in three school districts. His hands-on approach led to significant change, most recently as deputy superintendent in East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Under his leadership, 70 percent of East Baton Rouge schools increased their academic performance. In St. Louis, Michael created the Office of Innovation while developing and implementing a turnaround model for 11 schools, which led to the district's first provisional accreditation in more than a decade. And while serving

New Orleans' Recovery School District, he put systems in place to allow regular improvements to curriculum and the inclusion of learning supports to remove barriers to learning. As chief academic officer and senior vice president of professional learning for Scholastic Education, Michael oversees the creation of customized professional learning models for school leadership, as well as contributes to the development of curriculum.

Workshop: Harness the Power of Comprehensive Literacy in your District (Chicago AM & PM) (Seattle AM & PM)



SUE HANEY absolutely loves being the principal at Parma Elementary School. She has been at Parma since 2005. Prior to working with the Western School District, Sue was a middle school and high school English and psychology teacher at Vandercook Lake Schools. Sue spent a few years as a guidance counselor, building administrator and curriculum director. She enjoyed coaching volleyball and softball at Vandercook Lake.

Sue graduated from Michigan Center Schools and from there went to JCC and Michigan State University for her undergraduate work. She completed her graduate work at Eastern Michigan

University. **Workshop: It Takes a Village: Working Together to Create a School Filled With Readers (Chicago AM & PM) (Seattle AM)**



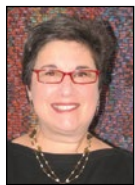
JILLIAN HEISE, NBCT, is the national literacy consultant for BALB Literacy Consulting, Building a Love of Books & Bringing a Literacy Balance. She taught seventh- and eighth-grade language arts in the Milwaukee area for 11 years before leaving the classroom to broaden her impact through working with teachers. Jillian is passionate about providing student choice in reading, consulting with educators in selecting the right books for their curriculum needs, and providing professional development to support district literacy initiatives. She started #classroombookaday, inspired by Donalyn Miller’s #bookaday, reading aloud a picture book every day of the school year with her middle school students. Jillian wholeheartedly believes picture books have value for students and classrooms of any age. She also brings her literacy expertise and passion for books to her role as chair of WSRA’s Children’s Literature Committee. You can find Jillian at her *Lit Perks* blog and on Twitter @CustomeduLit.

Workshop: Picture Books for All Ages (Chicago PM)



ZIPPORAH HIGHTOWER is a powerhouse of the Chicago school system. With 20 years of experience as an educator, including five as a principal, Zipporah is the executive director of principal quality at Chicago Public Schools, with the mission to identify, develop, support, and retain strong school leaders who are dedicated to student success. Prior to this role, she was executive director for program management with New Leaders Organization. Students in New Leader schools are closing the achievement gap through consistently higher performance than their peers and higher graduation rates. In her previous role as principal of Chicago’s Bethune School of Excellence, Zipporah developed a culture in which fifth graders doubled their math scores, keeping pace with the number of third graders whose reading scores met or exceeded standards in state testing.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We’ve Been. Where We’re Going. (Chicago PM – Panelist)



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 (Chicago PM)



ELIZABETH HOSTIN has spent 33 years in education teaching junior high school, high school, and elementary school. She began her administrative career as an assistant principal at a Title 1 elementary school where she held the position for three years. She opened two new elementary campuses over a 10-year span and has spent the last five years as a middle school principal. Hostin served as an adjunct professor at Dallas Baptist University for 10 years and served on the Scholastic Book Fairs® Principal Advisory Board. She retired from Texas public education in 2016 and is currently working as an educational consultant in Maryville, Tennessee, where she

lives.

Hostin considers her greatest accomplishments to be her 36-year marriage to her husband Lonnie, their two sons, and a beautiful daughter-in-love who has given them their first grandchild, Nora.

She wants to help children learn to enjoy life — her everyday motto — and believes everyone can make a difference in the future, one student at a time.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We’ve Been. Where We’re Going. (Raleigh PM – Panelist)

Workshop: Raising the Student Achievement Bar with Independent Reading (Houston AM & PM)



SUSAN B. KATZ is an award-winning, bilingual author, National Board Certified Teacher, freelance editor, and keynote speaker/professional development presenter. Her first book, *ABC, Baby Me!* (Random House) debuted to rave reviews, and her second book, *My Mama Earth* (Barefoot Books), won the Moonbeam Gold Award. Her third book was *ABC School’s For Me* (Scholastic, 2015) and most recently, Susan translated the book *All Year Round* (Scholastic, 2016) into Spanish. It was then published by Scholastic Clubs and Scholastic Book Fairs® as *Un Año Redondo* in September 2016 and named a “Best New Book of 2016”

by The Children’s Book Review. Susan is also the executive director of Connecting Authors, a national non-profit bringing children’s book authors into schools as role models of literacy and the arts. She served as the strategic partner manager for authors at Facebook. Her website is susankatzbooks.com.

Workshop: Raising Readers: The Positive Power of Family Involvement (Seattle AM)

Workshop: Booktalking: Transforming Dormant to Passionate Readers (Seattle PM)



MEGAN KYPKE is a fourth-grade teacher at Zaharis Elementary School in Mesa, Arizona. Megan is still in the beginning years of her teaching career and has had the opportunity to learn from master teachers and excel in her profession. She works well with students of all abilities. She has a passion for children’s literature and developing life long, independent readers.

Workshop: Dribble, Shoot, Score: Winning the Game of Supporting Independent Reading (DC AM & PM)

Reading



JENNIFER LAGARDE is the lead school library media coordinator/digital reaching and learning specialist for New Hanover County Schools in Wilmington, North Carolina. With more than 18 years of experience in public education, Jennifer has been a classroom teacher, school library media coordinator, district level leader, and educational consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Jennifer is a past winner of the “I Love My Librarian Award,” a collaborative program of Carnegie Corporation of New York, The New York Public Library, *The New York Times*, and the American Library Association. She was also named a *Library Journal* “Mover and Shaker” for her efforts as a school library advocate.

Jennifer earned her bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English/Language Arts from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She earned her Master’s in Library Science from Appalachian State University. She also holds National Board Certification in the area of School Library Media. Jennifer has published numerous articles on best educational practices for journals like *Teacher Librarian* and *Knowledge Quest*. She is also the author of the award-winning blog *The Adventures of Library Girl*, where she proves that while superhero powers are not required to be a teacher librarian, having a cape sure helps.

Workshop: Read. Tweet. Repeat. Using Social Media to Build Communities of Readers (Raleigh AM & PM)



TERI LESENE is respected by teachers and librarians across the country for the passion she brings to connecting tweens and teens with excellent age- and reading level–appropriate literature and for her professional books *Making the Match*, *Naked Reading*, and *Reading Ladders*. She takes her passion directly to teachers with in-person workshops and at her website, professornana.livejournal.com, where she keeps the field up to date on the best and most helpful literature for teaching adolescents. In recognition of her significant contributions to the field, Teri received the 2007 ALAN Award. A former middle school teacher, she is a professor in the Department of Library Science at Sam Houston State University where she teaches classes in literature for children and young adults.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We’ve Been. Where We’re Going. (Houston PM – Panelist)



DR. TONYA LESLIE is an author and educator who works to identify and promote research and best practices to improve the educational outcomes for all children with a focus on vulnerable populations. In her research at New York University, Dr. Leslie focused on academic resilience and developing strong school climates to facilitate academic achievement. Dr. Leslie is also a children’s book author and has 20 years of experience in educational publishing.

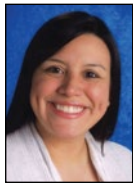
Workshop: Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Doors: A Framework For Building Diverse Libraries (Raleigh AM & PM) (Houston AM)



JESS LIFSHITZ teaches reading and writing to fifth-grade students in Northbrook, Illinois. She has been teaching for 14 years. Every day she has the pleasure of teaching kids how to use reading and writing to create positive change in the world. She writes about her teaching and learning on her blog, *Crawling Out of the Classroom*.

Workshop: Empowering Students as Readers (Chicago AM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We’ve Been. Where We’re Going. (Chicago PM – Panelist)



LARIZA LINER is an instructional leader that strives to continually promote a positive and engaging learning environment through strong communication skills, positive attitude, and a vision of "Success is our ONLY option." As an educator for 14 years and a campus principal for five, she continues to work, evolve, change, and develop so that we can provide the highest academic environment for our Future Leaders of America!" Lariza firmly believes in creating a reading culture to instill the love of reading in her teachers and students. By doing this, she believes "we are giving them a gift that will last them a lifetime."

Workshop: Raising the Student Achievement Bar with Independent Reading (Houston AM & PM)



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 Bammy 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 also the author of the children's book *Spruce & Lucy*, as well as co-author of the award-winning books *Flipping 2.0* and most recently *Kids Deserve It!* Todd serves on both the Scholastic Principal Advisory Board and the Remind Advisory Board. He is also the co-host of the popular education podcast series *Kids Deserve It*.

Workshop: Building a Love of Reading Campus-Wide (Houston AM & PM) (Seattle AM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Seattle PM – Panelist)



SANDI NOVAK is an educational consultant from Lakeville, Minnesota. She has been a teacher, principal, curriculum director, and assistant superintendent in Minnesota public schools.

Sandi received a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota, a Master of Arts degree in education from the University of Minnesota, and an Education Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is the author of *Student-Led Discussions; Literacy Unleashed: Fostering Excellent Reading Instruction Through Classroom Visits; and Deep Discourse: A Framework For Cultivating Student-Led Discussions*, as well as articles, blogs, and online resources.

Sandi has served on the board of directors for the Minnesota Association for Supervisors and Curriculum Developers (ASCD) and on the marketing committee of Learning Forward. She provides professional learning and consultation that helps teachers, principals, and other education leaders enhance independent reading in their schools' cultures.

Workshop: Literacy Unleashed (Seattle PM)



MIKE OLIVER is the progressive principal of Zaharis 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: Dribble, Shoot, Score: Winning the Game of Supporting Independent Reading (DC AM & PM)



DR. LAQUITA OUTLAW has been an educator for over 15 years and is currently the principal of Bay Shore Middle School located in Suffolk County. Prior to that, Dr. Outlaw was an English Language Arts teacher in Bay Shore and for the NYC Department of Education.

Literacy is a vital component to the success and development of every child. To share this message widely, Dr. Outlaw is an adjunct professor at St. Joseph's College, working with graduate students on reading. Her expertise in literacy and administration are shared with colleagues through her involvement with several professional organizations. Dr. Outlaw is the co-president of the Suffolk County Middle Level Principals' Association and has been recognized by local politicians, the National Council of 100 Black Women, the Town of Islip, St. John's University, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Dr. Outlaw shares practical ideas on getting administrators involved in promoting literacy at the building level on Scholastic's Idea Share (scholastic.com/bookfairs/idea-share/laquita-outlaw). You can follow her on Twitter @drloutlaw.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (DC PM – Panelist)



DR. KIMBERLY N. PARKER currently teaches English at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, and her research looks at the literacy practices of young black men. She has an unwavering belief in the power and promise of underserved young people and is currently piloting a program intended 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). She has been named a Literacy Champion from the Massachusetts Literacy Council and has received a Book Love Foundation Grant. She is the former secondary representative at-large for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and former president of NEATE. She is currently a trustee of the NCTE Research Foundation.

Workshop: I'll Read More If I Can Choose (Raleigh AM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Raleigh PM – Panelist)



NICOLE PAYLOR has been an educator for 18 years and has served as principal of Fountain Rock Elementary School since July 2016. Nicole is currently working to transform the learning at Fountain Rock, infusing the arts into the instructional delivery process and by placing a heavy emphasis on literacy. An avid reader, Nicole built a lending library in her office which allows students to “check out” books during the school day. In addition, she has implemented booktalks both in the classroom and at faculty meetings, formed the first student online book club, purchased over 500 books for the school so far this school year, and hosted a Back-to-School Night Scholastic Book Fair. Recognizing that reading on, or above, grade level is critical to student success, Fountain Rock students participate in a dedicated sixty-minute reading block in addition to the regularly scheduled ELA instructional block.

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (DC PM – Panelist)



STACEY RIEDMILLER is a fourth-grade language arts teacher near Cincinnati, Ohio. She gets paid to read books and share them with elementary students. She encourages students to share their reading lives by using #kidsarereading. You can find her on Twitter @literacybigkids where she is usually live-tweeting as she reads.

Workshop: Passion-Driven Reading Communities: They Should Be the Norm (Chicago PM)

(Raleigh AM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Raleigh PM – Panelist)



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 served on the 2014 Newbery committee, which named the title *Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* “the most distinguished contribution to children’s literature.” He has also served on ALSC’s Children and Technology committee, AASL’s Best Websites for Teachers and Learning, two readers’ choice award committees, the School Library Month Planning Committee, and the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature selection committee.

Every day is a giant book party for this teacher-librarian! In fact, *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.

John blogs daily at MrSchuReads.com. He also hosts the Scholastic Book Fairs web series *Mr. Schu Goes to the Book Fair** and co-edits the *Reader Leader** blog.

Workshop: Breakfast With Mr. Schu (All Locations)

Workshop: School Librarians: Champions of Change (All Locations – AM)

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

* For more information, visit our digital Guidebook: bookfairsfiles.scholastic.com/flippingbooks/2017-Summit-Guidebook/2017-Summit-Guidebook.html



COLBY SHARP is a third-grade teacher in Parma, Michigan. He's also 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. Colby is the editor of *The Creativity Project* (Little Brown 2018).

Workshop: It Takes a Village: Working Together to Create a School Filled With Readers (Chicago AM & PM) (Seattle AM)



KATHERINE SOKOLOWSKI has taught kindergarten through middle school for the past 21 years, and currently teaches seventh-grade language arts 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.

Workshop: Audience Matters: Engaging Student Readers Through Community (Chicago AM)

Workshop: Independent Reading: Where We've Been. Where We're Going. (Chicago PM – Panelist)



MARVIN TERBAN is a long-time teacher and best-selling, award-winning children's book author. Called "a master of children's wordplay" by ALA Booklist and "Mr. English for Kids" by the Children's Book-of-the-Month Club, he has written 38 books about the English language. He is also Scholastic's "Professor Grammar." Three of his Scholastic books on grammar, idioms, and spelling have sold more than 1 million copies each and are used in schools all over the world. In 2005, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators voted Marvin their Member of the Year for his contributions to children's literacy. For years

he has been a popular speaker at educational conferences in the United States, South America, Europe, China, Japan, and Israel. He is known for his lively, informative, and fun presentations. Throughout his long career as an author, he has kept his day job even longer as a teacher in New York.

Workshop: A Wonderful Way to Spend a Life: One Teacher's Favorite Teacher (Chicago AM) (DC PM)



MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN is the author of more than 70 books for readers of all ages, including *Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman*, which changed history and inspired both the Hulu documentary *Batman and Bill* and a TED talk. He is also the author of *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*, which made the front page of *USA Today*. His latest titles are *Brave Like My Brother* and *The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra*. Upcoming titles include *Thirty Minutes Over Oregon* and *Fairy Spell*. Marc has been invited to speak at schools and conferences from Thailand to Tanzania and blogs about adventures in publishing at his blog *Noblemania*. You can also find him on Twitter @MarcTNobleman.

Workshop: Only the Obsessed Need Apply (DC PM)



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. She oversaw the implementation of the National PTA Standards for Family School Partnerships and led the Urban Family Engagement Initiative. She was also the staff lead on the Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle. 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. Sherri was the co-founder of the Alabama Parent Education Center and served as Alabama PIRC Director for more than 14 years. She has served on a wide variety of national, state, and local boards and committees, including the National Association of Family School and Community Engagement.

Workshop: Building the Capacity of Families to Engage in Children's Literacy (Chicago AM & PM)