

## Strategies to Fight for School Libraries

On October 5, the American Library Association (ALA) released an executive summary ([bit.ly/FFSL\\_execsummary](http://bit.ly/FFSL_execsummary)) that identifies systematic ways ALA, its divisions and offices, and the field of librarianship can support the nation's school libraries. The summary calls for ALA members and staff, including all divisions, to:

- collect quality data on standards and policies regarding school library staffing, funding, and accreditation
- develop compelling stories and messages for national and local community audiences
- strengthen partnerships with public and academic libraries to further build support
- implement support for school libraries consistently into political advocacy work

The strategies were developed by school, public, and academic library leaders from across the country during the "Fight for School Libraries" summit convened by ALA Past President Jim Neal in May. Neal tasked participants of the

summit with creating an ALA-wide strategy to support school libraries, school library workers, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and the learners and communities that school libraries serve.

Participants reviewed the present state of the nation's school libraries, identified future opportunities, and examined the impact of school libraries on the work of public and academic libraries. Using this information, the group outlined the essential responsibilities of ALA and the library profession for supporting school libraries as unique and essential parts of the learning community.

"ALA's advocacy for all types of libraries is strengthened by this systematic approach for inclusion," the executive summary concludes. "As we move forward as an organization to examine organizational effectiveness, school libraries are an integral part of the planning and future of the Association. This inclusive approach empowers ALA to remain the premier association for our profession." ●

### Farrell Announces ALA Treasurer Candidacy

Maggie Farrell, dean of university libraries at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, has filed as a petition candidate for ALA treasurer for 2019–2022.



Maggie Farrell

A member of ALA for 30 years, Farrell is currently chair of its Budget Analysis and Review Committee. She served on ALA Council as councilor-at-large and as Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) division councilor. She is an active member of ACRL, the Library Leadership and Management Association, and United for Libraries, as well as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table; Social Responsibilities Round Table; and Reforma: the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.

Farrell has been active in state associations, including those in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming. She has also served on the board of trustees of OCLC.

She was appointed by the Wyoming governor to the Wyoming Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics, serving as its 2013–2014 chair. Farrell was named an ALA/United States Information Agency Library Fellow in 1993 and participated in Leadership Wyoming from 2006 to 2007.

"ALA and the library profession are transforming to new, exciting ways to connect with our communities and advance libraries," said Farrell in an October 24 statement, "but we need an organizational structure that supports professional development, networking, research, data, and advocacy. As ALA imagines new ways of working and connecting, we require a financial infrastructure that supports ALA's vision and work. As treasurer, I would work with members,

divisions, round tables, units, Council, and the Executive Board to provide diverse perspectives in creating financial sustainability to ensure relevancy for our Association supporting libraries."

Farrell holds a bachelor's from University of Missouri–Kansas City, an MLS from University of Arizona, and a master's in public administration from Arizona State University.

Farrell will engage in a candidates' forum 4:30–5:30 p.m. on January 26 during the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Seattle.

### PLA Receives Grant for Opioid Crisis Resources

The Public Library Association (PLA) has been awarded a \$249,714 National Leadership Grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to collect and share knowledge and resources to support public libraries and their community partners in addressing the opioid crisis.