

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Amanda Kordeliski

2025–2026 PRESIDENT OF AASL

Amanda Kordeliski is the Director of Libraries and Instructional Technology for Norman Public Schools in Oklahoma. Kordeliski has written for AASL's *Knowledge Quest* and YALSA's *YALS* journal. She is currently an active member of ALA Policy Corps, Unite Against Book Bans, and has served on a wide variety of AASL, ALA, and YALSA committees including co-chair of the AASL Practice Committee, the AASL/ISTE Standards Crosswalk, and the 2023 Printz Committee. Kordeliski is also a past chair of the school library division of the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) and the OLA Advocacy committee.

Leading Into a Bright Year for School Libraries

As we open the doors to a new school year, I can feel the familiar excitement in the air—freshly sharpened pencils, learners brimming with curiosity, and the endless opportunities that lie ahead.

THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS I LOVE MOST about our profession: every August and September bring with them a chance to begin again, to reimagine what our libraries can offer, and to recommit to the work of transforming learning for all students.

This year, I am honored and humbled to serve as your president of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). It is both a privilege and a responsibility that I carry with gratitude, because I know how deeply each of you is committed to the mission of our profession. Together, we are not only shaping readers and researchers, but also building the informed citizens, creators, and leaders of tomorrow.

A Year of Opportunity

As I begin this presidential year, I see it as a moment to pause and take stock. School librarians have faced immense challenges in recent years, from censorship attempts to resource limitations to shifting learning landscapes and loss of funding sources. Yet what has never wavered is our resilience. School librarians show up every day for students, for teachers, and for our communities. We create spaces where curiosity flourishes and all learners belong.

My focus this year is on **celebrating and amplifying that resilience, creativity, and leadership**. The work happening in your libraries—whether in rural, suburban, or urban schools; elementary, middle, or high schools—deserves recognition and sharing. I want this year to be about telling our story loudly and proudly, about reminding the world what school librarians do best: connect learners with information, ideas, and each other.

Looking Ahead to October: AASL National

One of the best ways we can celebrate and grow together is by coming together at the **AASL National Conference in October**. There is truly nothing like it. Every two years, school librarians from across the country gather to share strategies, spark inspiration, and renew their sense of purpose.

This October, we'll be bringing the energy, the learning, and the joy to St. Louis and I encourage you to join us, because the conference is more than professional development—it's a reminder that none of us are alone and that we are so much stronger when standing together.

At AASL National, you'll find sessions on every aspect of our practice, from innovative technology integration to literacy leadership to building inclusive collections. You'll hear from thought leaders and authors who challenge us to think bigger. You'll make connections with colleagues who become lifelong friends. Most importantly, you'll leave re-energized, ready to bring new ideas and confidence back to your school.

If you've never attended, make this your year. If you've been before, you already know the power of the experience. And if travel is difficult, remember there are always ways to connect virtually and to bring that spirit of collaboration back to your local networks.

Celebrating Our Shared Work

While the national conference is a highlight, I want this year of AASL to be about recognizing the *everyday* magic that happens in our libraries. The book talk that sparks a striving reader's imagination. The lesson that empowers students to question and analyze information. The collaboration with a teacher that makes learning come alive.

Our work is too often invisible. Part of my role this year will be to shine a light on your efforts and to advocate at every level—local, state, and national—for the resources and respect school librarians need and deserve.

I also encourage you to take time to celebrate yourself. Too often, we are our own toughest critics, constantly thinking about what more we could do. This year, I challenge you to pause and acknowledge your wins, big and small. Did you help a reader find the perfect book? Did you create a welcoming space for learners who didn't feel they belonged elsewhere? Did you provide a teacher with the support they needed to innovate in their classroom? Those moments matter.

The Power of Community

AASL is more than an association—it's a community. Whether through your state affiliate, *Knowledge Quest*, online networks, or national gatherings, you are connected to thousands of professionals who share your passion and understand your challenges.

As president, I want to nurture and strengthen that community. This year, we'll continue to listen deeply to members, share resources generously, and advocate boldly. Together, we are stronger. Together, we are unstoppable.

I invite you to engage with AASL in whatever way feels right for you—contribute to discussions, volunteer, share your expertise, or simply connect with colleagues online. Every voice adds to the strength of our profession.

Looking Forward

As we embark on this school year, I feel immense optimism. Yes, challenges remain. But every time I visit a library, talk to a school librarian, or see learners light up with discovery, I am reminded of the power we hold. School libraries are engines of equity, creativity, and joy.

My hope for this year is that we continue to lean into that power, celebrate our work, and invest in ourselves and one another. Let's make this a year of bold advocacy, joyful connection, and transformative learning.

I can't wait to see many of you in October at AASL National and to spend this year lifting up the work we do together. Thank you for the honor of serving as your president. Let's make it an incredible year for school libraries.