

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago
June 28 – July 2, 2013

Topic: PhD Student Fellowship/Scholarship

Background: As part of Jack Martin's Connect, Create, Collaborate theme, he has reached to groups that would make appropriate partners for YALSA, as their work fits into the mission and scope of the association. In the fall Jack led a conference call with representatives from the Association for Library and Information Science Educators (ALISE) Youth Services Special Interest Group to explore the possibility of collaborating on a PhD scholarship for individuals who want to focus their teaching and research on library services for and with young adults. A summary of the discussion is provided below. The board may want to discuss any next steps.

Action Required: Action

Goals:

1. to expand the number of researchers who conduct and publish research relating to young adult library services and YALSA's Research Agenda
2. to increase the number of faculty whose specialty is young adult library services

Can both goals be met through one approach, or are different tactics needed?

Ideas:

1. Could use the Eugene Garfield model to create an honor/award to support an individual(s) dissertation research on some aspect of young adult library services that is co-sponsored by ALISE and YALSA
2. Continue to explore ways to support a scholarship for those earlier in their schooling who want to pursue a focus in young adult library services
 - a. Is there a way to work with ALA's Spectrum Scholar program on this?

Need:

- Neither ALA, YALSA nor ALISE currently offers these types of scholarships or awards
- Not aware of any universities that offer opportunities specifically for young adult services
- 25% of respondents on the YALSA member survey that ran last month indicated that they would be interested in a PhD scholarship, should YALSA provide one

Benefits:

- Helps ALISE and YALSA demonstrate to their members that they provide support to them
- In the short term, calls attention to an existing gap in graduate schools of library and information science and can help position individuals who receive the award as attractive to potential employers

- In the long term, expands the pool of researchers and faculty who are generating and disseminating information specifically about young adult services
- Supports YALSA's research and best practices goal in the strategic plan
- Could generate more content and contributors for *JRLYA*

Questions to consider:

- How much could a scholarship or fellowship cost?
 - A full four year scholarship could run over \$100K
 - Can ask the recipient to sign a contract saying they'd teach at an ALA accredited institution for XXX number of years
 - Will an institution provide matching funding?
 - A smaller award would be called an "honor" instead of a scholarship
 - e.g. Eugene Garfield award is a one-time fellowship for \$3,000 to support dissertation research – could be a good model for ALISE/YALSA
- Where will the funds come from?
 - YALSA's Leadership Endowment is too small at this time to yield enough interest, but could be a source later
 - Could a corporate or other sponsor be engaged in this effort?
 - Could some fundraising be conducted? Perhaps an event at a future ALISE or ALA conference, and/or outreach to publishers whose titles are honored by YALSA book awards
- What kind of results would the scholar produce? Publish in *JRLYA*, present at a conference? Other?
- In the long term, what about endowing a chair?
 - Augusta Beaver Chair, e.g. Would need significant funds for that
- Logistics
 - Any award administered in full or part by YALSA will need YALSA Board and ALA Award Committee approval
 - Applications could be reviewed by a joint committee consisting of ALISE SIG members and YALSA members

Possible Next Steps

- Board directs the President to pursue a joint taskforce with ALISE to create a proposal for an honor/fellowship, modeled loosely after the Eugene Garfield award, for the YALSA Board's and for ALISE's consideration
- Other?