



THE ASSOCIATION FOR
RURAL & SMALL
LIBRARIES

“The Voice of Small
& Rural Libraries”

*To provide a network
of people and
materials to support
rural and small library
staff, volunteers,
and trustees to
integrate the library
thoroughly with
the life and work of the
community
it serves.*

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The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) is pleased to announce that we have been selected to receive a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Award for our “Outstanding in Their Field” ARSL Leadership Institute.

As the premier organization representing rural and small libraries, ARSL recognizes the uniqueness of these libraries and is committed to providing professional development that builds capacity and excellence within this community of practice.

With \$249,947 over three years, this Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant will fund the development of an immersive institute tailored to elevate those in key positions in rural and small libraries to step confidently into leadership roles in their libraries, their communities, our association, and the larger library field.

Beginning in April of 2021, participants will engage in residential, online, and conference experiences spanning 18 months. Applications to participate will become available in December of 2020.

This leadership institute is unique because the intended audience are those in the smallest or most rural libraries in the U.S. Often these “accidental librarians” have no formal education and little local guidance or support. ARSL seeks to develop their understanding of and commitment to professional values while they gain practical managerial skills.

Key priorities for this institute are to develop strong rural and small library leaders, strengthen community leadership, build ARSL organizational capacity, add rural voices to national library leadership, and evaluate the pilot for future effectiveness and scalability.

Working closely with the ARSL Board of Directors, the Core Team includes:

- *Kate Laughlin, ARSL Executive Director*
- *Kieran Hixon, ARSL Past-President; Technology & Digital Initiatives Consultant, Colorado State Library*
- *Sharon Morris MLIS, PhD, ARSL member; Director of Library Development, Colorado State Library*
- *Kathy Zappitello, ARSL President 2020-2021; Executive Director, Conneaut Public Library, Ohio*

We are grateful to these individuals and organizations who have pledged ongoing support and join the Core Team in making up our Advisory Team:

- *Cicely Douglas, Library Director at City of South Sioux City (Nebraska)*
- *Barbara Macikas, Executive Director, Public Library Association*
- *Mary Hirsh, Deputy Director, Public Library Association*
- *Dr. Linda Hofschire, Director, Library Research Service and the Research Institute for Public Libraries, Colorado State Library*
- *Dr. Michelle H. Martin, Beverly Cleary Professor and MLIS Program Chair, Information School, University of Washington*
- *Chance Hunt, MLIS, Senior Lecturer, Information School, University of Washington*
- *Timothy Owens, State Librarian of North Carolina, ARSL Board liaison to COSLA*
- *Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian, Hawaii State Public Library System*
- *Jennifer Peterson, Community Manager, WebJunction/OCLC*
- *Continuing Education Coordinator from a State Library, TBD*