

GRANT PROPOSAL: Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Organization: Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC)

Project Name: Library Instruction Leadership Academy (LILAC), a semester-long intensive learning experience that will include a variety of workshops, field experiences (*academy participants will observe other librarians' teaching skills, and will be observed on their own teaching skills* - we can cut out this section if it is adequately addressed in another section of the grant), assigned readings, reflection and discussion and a final culminating project. Currently, MLS programs provide minimal course work in library instruction. The goal of LILAC is to fill this gap for current and aspiring librarians working at RRLC libraries.

Need for project: As library instruction continues to become an increasingly essential component in most job advertisements for library positions, LILAC intends to fill a much needed niche among new and more veteran librarians. Furthermore, as schools and colleges shift their course materials and the presentation of that content to electronic formats (i.e., course management systems), so too must librarians adapt to an ever-increasing online "classroom." *Preliminary data* indicates that librarians and current MLS students feel they have not received adequate pedagogical training in the physical classroom. LILAC will provide training needed to guide librarians in becoming effective teachers in both environments. *See appendix #for more details.*

Target Audience: Instruction librarians working at RRLC libraries. Acceptance of 20 participants into the academy will be based on need of intensive training as determined by the completion of a formal application process. *See appendix #for application and selection criteria.*

Participants:

- 20 LILAC Participants

Services to be provided:

- Five full days of workshop training on various topics
- Participant observation of multiple library classroom instructors from both school and academic libraries
- Participant presentation of mini lessons, to be videotaped and critiqued, at the beginning and end of the academy
- Follow-up mentoring by veteran librarians
- Group discussion and personal reflection via online vehicles (i.e., a group message board/listserv, individual blogs, reading materials distributed through a course management system)
- Assignment and assessment of a final project to include a modified lesson plan based on the intensive academy training

Expected Outcomes:

- 20 LILAC participants will demonstrate an understanding and implementation of best practices in pedagogy translated into classroom practice
- Personal librarian reflections using online tools will exhibit a transformation or modification in the ways a librarian approaches preparation and presentation of classroom materials
- Participants will exude greater confidence in their teaching methods, especially as it pertains to risk taking, creativity and interaction with students
- Creation of a learning community where participants and mentors build strong relationships and continue to learn from each other well beyond the timeline of the academy
- Participants will disseminate their learning with other libraries/systems through national, statewide and regional conference presentations, as well as publication of the project in key library and educational journals

Collaborations:

This is a collaborative project between SUNY Geneseo librarians and RRLC. The planning committee is comprised of thirteen RRLC librarians, all of whom are dedicated to the fulfillment of the project. - *see appendix 7 for committee member details*. Presenters, observation librarians and the coordinators involved in the LILAC project include librarians and teachers from K-12, community college and comprehensive college environments. These partnerships have been developed from previous collaborative instruction workshops. - *see appendix 5 for details regarding these previous collaborative efforts*.

Other collaborators for the LILAC project include::

- Workshop Presenters - veteran librarians and/or educators who will present relevant workshops; provide pre-workshop assignments and post-workshop follow-up; engage in the online communication system established for this project; and generally serve as mentors throughout and beyond the project.
- Observation Librarians - veteran librarians who will be active in the online communication system established for this project; invite students to observe their instruction session(s); provide follow-up information to participants; *attend and observe instruction sessions conducted by participants*
- Lead mentor – Dr. Jeffrey Liles, Assistant Professor of Education at St. John Fisher College, will present the lead workshop; collaborate with committee members on sound pedagogical theories and practices; and videotape and critique participants on their library instruction.

Project timetable:

- Upon award - December 2009: planning phase for coordination, develop workshops, recruit observation librarians, initiate CMS, and review applications of LILAC
- January 2010: organize and host lead workshop featuring Jeff Liles, provide LILAC participants with online CMS training, and assign final projects
- February 2010: organize and implement second workshop, coordinate first observation sessions, videotape and critique mini lesson plan - March 2010: organize and implement third workshop, coordinate second observation sessions
- April 2010: organize and implement fourth workshop, coordinate third observation sessions
- May 2010: organize and implement fifth workshop, coordinate last observation sessions, videotape and critique mini lesson plan, collect and evaluate final projects -
- Ongoing throughout the project: monitor LILAC participants message boards and reflective journal blogs, assign readings, and coordinate discussions between participants and observation librarians.

Organizational Capacity: Currently, there are 13 dedicated committee members working on this project, all of whom fall under the RRLC umbrella. RRLC and SUNY Geneseo have committed space for workshops and classroom observation in addition to in-kind funding. *see budget for more details*

Anticipated Project Future: Relationships established between LILAC participants and veteran librarians will continue well beyond the project. In addition LILAC participants will share and mentor other librarians by disseminating what they have learned through the project. It is our hope that LILAC 2010 will be the first of many subsequent academies, each with their own cohort of 20 participants

Project Evaluation: Success of the program will be determined by:

- 20 LILAC participants will demonstrate an understanding and implementation of best practices in pedagogy translated into classroom practice as evidenced by personal reflective journals/blogs; videotaped mini lessons assessed by veteran librarians and pedagogical experts; and evaluation of participants' final project demonstrating sound pedagogical theory and positive reactions from students in the classrooms
- Participants will exude greater confidence in their teaching methods, especially as it pertains to risk taking, creativity and interaction with students as evidenced by end of project surveys/evaluations.
- Creation of a learning community where participants and mentors build strong relationships and continue to learn from each other well beyond the timeline of the academy as evidenced by continued, post project interaction through the content management system
- Participants will disseminate their learning with other libraries/systems through national, statewide and regional conference presentations, as well as publication of the project in key library and educational journals.