

SCIRA Spring 2016 Newsletter

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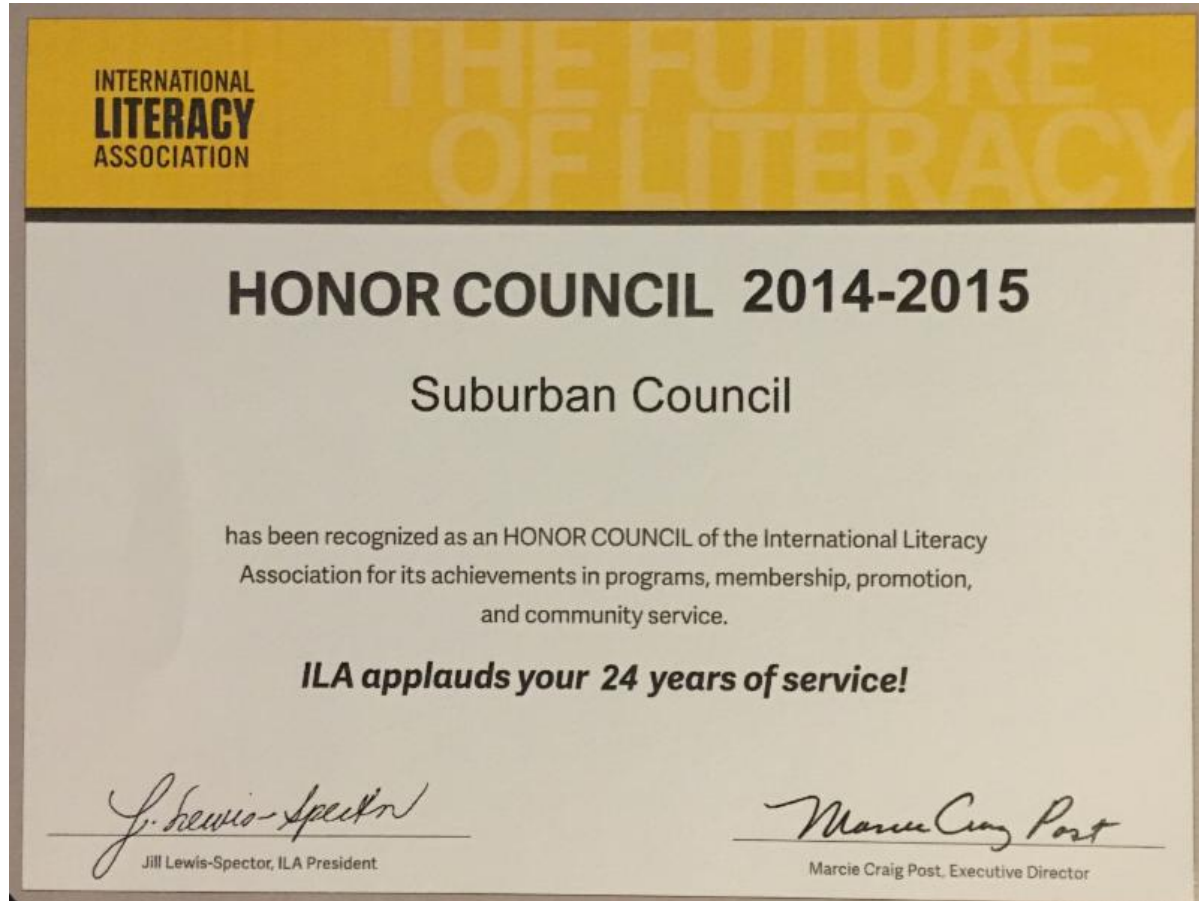
By Kris Patel & Kristin Kaczmarek
Co-Presidents of SCIRA

Dear SCIRA Friends,

Welcome to spring! The end of the school year is near. Do you have summer plans? We've got you covered for professional development! Scroll down for information about our summer conference on close reading with Chris Lehman and Kate Roberts on June 23rd and 24th at the Holiday Inn in Skokie. We hope to see you there!

SCIRA is proud to announce that we have once again received Honor

Council from ILA. The Honor Council Program annually recognizes local, student and special interest councils that organize and conduct well-rounded, programs serving the council members, the community, the state/provincial council, and the International Literacy Association. Councils are recognized for accomplishments of the previous year. *This is SCIRA's 25th year to be awarded Honor Council by ILA.*



Last Year's Award!

A ceremony will be held at the annual ILA conference this summer where SCIRA will accept the award. Congratulations and thank you to Kris Patel and Pam Kaufman for their work in organizing and submitting the materials for the award. Congratulations and thank you to all SCIRA members and board members for this accomplishment.

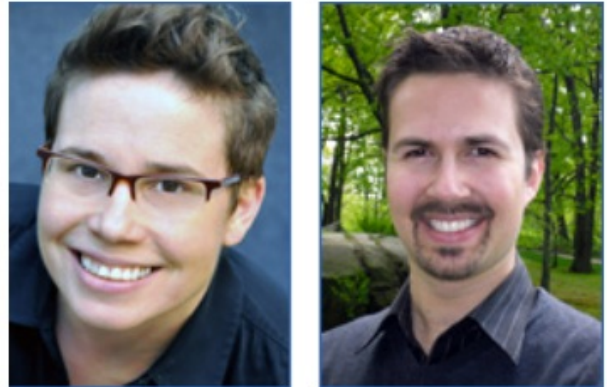
SCIRA could not do all that it does without the support of YOU, are members, and our entire board. Please continue to read this newsletter to learn of the grants we awarded this year, the community organizations we donated to, and our upcoming fall 2016 conference! **Please also take a moment to forward this email to a new teacher in your school, a colleague who's interested in growing professionally, or even your entire staff. SCIRA appreciates your support and we are delighted to have new members and welcome everyone to our conferences!**



Enjoy the longer days of approaching summer and the poignant moments at school year's end.

**Happy end of the school year,
Kris & Kristin**

**Summer
Conference
Thursday & Friday,
June 23rd & 24th
8am - 3pm**



**Kate Roberts &
Chris Lehman**

**Holiday Inn - Skokie
5300 West Touhy Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077**

Close Reading

Christopher Lehman and Kate Roberts will show us that close reading can be rigorous, meaningful, and joyous. You'll learn to empower students to not only analyze texts but to admire the craft of a beloved book, study favorite songs and videogames, and challenge peers in evidence-based discussions.

Chris and Kate will share a powerful three-step close-reading ritual that students can apply to any text. Then they will lay out practical, engaging lessons that not only guide students to independence in reading texts closely but also help them transfer this critical, analytical skill to media and even the

lives they lead.

Responsive to students' needs and field-tested in classrooms, these lessons include:

- strategies for close reading narratives, informational texts, and arguments
- suggestions for differentiation
- sample charts and student work from real classrooms
- connections to the Common Core State Standards
- a focus on viewing media and life in this same careful way.

"We see the ritual of close reading not just as a method of doing the academic work of looking closely at text-evidence, word choice, and structure," write Chris and Kate, "but as an opportunity to bring those practices together to empower our students to see the subtle messages in texts and in their lives."

[Link to purchase Lehman & Robert's book -
Fall in Love with Close Reading](#)



REGISTER NOW

**A HUGE THANK YOU to
Bert Crossland and Jim Bernette
for donating to SCIRA to make our
summer conference, with Chris & Kate, a
possibility. We greatly appreciate Bert
and Jim's support and generosity!**

NLU Course Information and Registration

RECEIVE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE
COURSE CREDIT

Attend the SCIRA Summer
Conference!

[Click here to download information
and registration!](#)

SCIRA Community Donations

SCIRA is thrilled to be able to support local, national, and international literacy projects and organizations. Here is a list of the donations SCIRA made during the 2015-2015 school year - THANKS TO YOU, OUR MEMBERS!!!

1. Center for Teaching Through Children's Book, National Louis University - SCIRA's support will be used to continue the Center's focus during the 2016-2017 year on incorporating social media as a tool in promoting literacy and sharing literature resources and information. It will also be used towards continuing our focus on promoting multicultural, diverse, and international literature through hosting multicultural/diverse authors

at speaking and workshop events.

2. **Nassau Reading Council-Guatemalan Fund** - The Guatemalan Literacy Project works to improve the education and quality of life of the children of Guatemala through fund-raising and staff development. To that end, five programs have been initiated- one for the donating of books, one aimed at assisting teachers professionally (conference registration, materials, professional organization membership, teacher in-service), one for student (child) scholarship--tuition for /private school, alternative school, upper level education, Terminal school, indigent/homeless; one hosting Guatemalan educators, and one supporting the establishment and continuation of the Guatemalan Reading Association.
3. **Evanston Books and Breakfast** - A daily, before-school program for identified families in need that provides supervision, academic support and a light breakfast. This is an academic support as well as a social -emotional support to engage students in literate conversations and better prepare them for learning.
4. **Illinois Reads** - The initiative encourages people to read books by Illinois authors. Each year, the program offers a new list of books at six different age levels. "Illinois Reads" kicks off in March and concludes in November with "Family Reading Night," an annual statewide event sponsored by my office.
5. **St. Joseph Haiti Project** - The support from SCIRA will be used to support adult literacy program at St. Joseph Parish in Port Au Prince, Haiti.
6. **Illinois Writing Project** - The funds donated by SCIRA were used to purchase notebooks for the Writing Palooza participants. Students were seen clutching them and writing in them throughout the day. Support like this makes the difference between an ordinary event and one filled with special touches.
7. **Howard Area Reading Program** - serves approximately 40 Gale Academy students who are performing significantly below their grade level peers in reading and who been recommended for literacy intervention. This 30-year-old program offers one-to-one tutoring and is held at the Good News Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays for second graders and on Mondays and Wednesdays for third and fourth graders. The instructional framework is based on the National Louis University clinic model. Program training and on site monitoring is conducted by National Louis trained supervisors.
8. **Two Pennies Ministry (Ghana, Africa)** - For the last four years, the members of the Two Pennies Ministry at First Baptist Church have been building relationships by working with the people in Ghana. During this time, the ministry has begun a poultry farm, run a soccer clinic, supplied a school system with thousands of books, hosted a medical clinic, built a church, trained teachers, begun a farm and constructed an orphanage. The Two

Pennies Ministry believes these trips are not one and done, but with each experience, relationships have been deepened and lives have been enriched.

Winter Conference

Thank you to all who attended our winter conference with Dr. Camille Blachowicz and Dr. Charlene Cobb. Attendees gained valuable knowledge and strategies for helping students with their vocabulary acquisition. Head over to our SCIRA website for hand-outs from the conference.



SCIRA GRANT

SCIRA supports the work of classroom teachers to foster the literacy growth of their students. This year, 2015-2016, SCIRA awarded 3 grants to local teachers.

Congratulations to:

Peggy Coutre & Buffy Stauffer

This grant will allow us to provide materials to support first grade teachers with the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards. We are asking for a series of paired fiction and nonfiction science-themed picture books that will assist teachers as they navigate through the NGSS as well as try to meet the needs of a diverse population.

Kimberly Sendelbach

The main purpose of this grant proposal is to supplement the writing curriculum for the third grade students at my school. The school at which I currently teach is very diverse. Approximately 37% of the third graders are English Language Learners (based on 2014-15 ACCESS testing data). Currently, the third grade teachers are using a variety of resources that are carefully aligned to the Common Core writing standards. With the implementation of Common Core State Standards, the rigor of the curriculum has put an even larger emphasis on Language Arts Learning Standards. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing are all components that drive our daily instruction.

Michael Mancini

William Julius Wilson (2009) wrote in his book, *More Than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*, about the significant obstacles African American students face in our society's public school system. He goes into great detail about the inequalities African American students must overcome in order to be successful. Additionally, many students want to read in the city. However, their ability to check out books has been canceled because members of their family may have substantial dues owed to the Chicago Public Library. An additional hurdle is that many libraries within Chicago Public Schools are closing as library positions have been eliminated. Access to reading is a major roadblock for this population of students and is an issue I wish to address. I am a reading teacher at Wendell Phillips High School and I am attempting to improve my students' reading ability every time I set foot in school.

Look for a 2016-2017 SCIRA Grant brochure at our Fall conference or online @ <http://scira.weebly.com>!

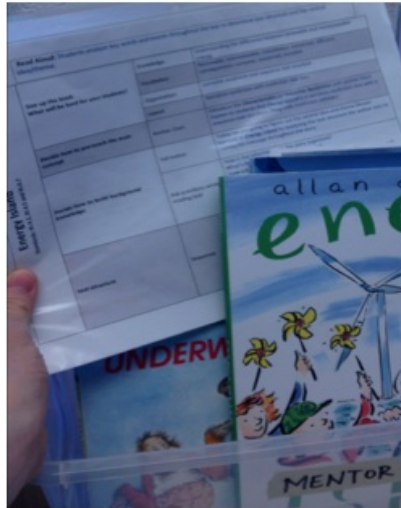
2014-2015 Grant Winner Andrea Chusin Performance Report

In the midst of PARCC testing it is clear that the thoughtful work of teachers in Glencoe School District #35 with the close of reading high quality mentor texts and for use as models for quality writing is paying off. Throughout the year, teachers have collaborated on instructionally rich lesson plans developed to target the ELA Common Core standards and make the reading/writing connection increasingly explicit for students. During institute days, staff meetings and grade-level team meetings, strategies for use with the close reading of *specific* complex texts and as models for quality writing have been shared *using the texts themselves*. Providing teachers with regular experience exploring the specifics of individual texts purposefully selected to support specific standards and be included in a mentor text library has translated into providing students with regular experience reading closely and writing with purpose.

Modelling these lessons for teachers during the school day and creating a space to collaborate and access these materials has been a much-needed day-to-day endeavor of collaboration and support. Consequently, the guided reading levels of general education as well as intervention students have shown good growth. The grant money provided by SCIRA has been part of making this happen for students here.

The vision of growing teacher independence in implementing the Common Core standards has extended to providing teachers with a multi-levelled, common core library of content area texts as well. The broad range of reading levels that were purchased for this growing collection is undergirded by the research into the benefits of using students' independent and guided reading levels purposefully to support reading achievement. The opportunity to build our resources to support individual ELA standards at various levels of text complexity has helped teachers provide much needed differentiation for students.

Thank you for helping us make this happen for our students in District #35!

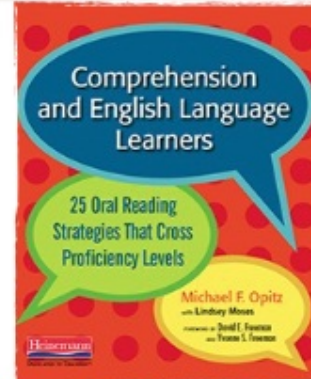


Fall 2016 Conference -

Join SCIRA on Thursday, October 27th
with Lindsey Moses -
Reading & ELL!!!

OCTOBER
27
2016

Lindsey Moses is an assistant professor of literacy education at Arizona State University. She is the author and co-author of Heinemann titles Supporting English Learners in the Reading Workshop and Comprehension and English Language Learners. Lindsey, a former elementary teacher, works with classroom teachers around the country supporting the implementation of effective student-centered literacy instruction in diverse settings. Her research focuses using a sociocultural perspective to explore how young learners construct meaning with text in various instructional settings.



LINDSEY MOSES READING & ELL

Thursday, October 27, 2016
4 to 8 pm

Location to be determined.

Registration will open June 2016 - online registration only!!!

[Click here to download the flyer for our fall 2016 conference!](#)

Please post at your school and share with your colleagues! THANK YOU!



ILLINOIS READS

A READING STATE OF MIND

About ILLINOIS READS

2016 Books Announced

ILLINOIS READS
A READING STATE OF MIND

ILLINOIS READS
A PROJECT OF THE
ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

Join the statewide literacy initiative! Six books in each age band birth to adult with fun activities, book clubs, author events, online blogs, Skype visits, and more!

Visit our website for more information www.illinoisreads.org

booksources
FROM SOURCE FOR CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOPS
WWW.ANDERSONSBKSHOP.COM

BIRTH - 4
Bike Bear!, Friendship, Good Night Gorilla, Peter's Trucks, The Windy Day, The Windy Day

GRADES K-2
Amanda and a Little Mill, The Noisy Paint Box, A Tree is Nice, Winnie, Yum! Yuck!

GRADES 3-5
The House for George Bull, The House for George Bull, The House for George Bull, Stick Dog, The House for George Bull

GRADES 6-8
Bird, Blind, Fantastic Fufflies, Keepers, The House for George Bull

GRADES 9-12
Bone Gap, The Being Me, The Being Me, Pirate Hunters, The Being Me

ADULT
The Blade Itself, The Hidden Man, Paris, He Said, Turn of Mind

[Click for a PDF of the 2016 books!](#)

[For more information about Illinois Reads click this link.](#)

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Association)
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