



*Our mission is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens especially those with the greatest needs on the path to successful and fulfilling lives. – Young Adult Library Services Association Mission, updated May 2016*

June 6, 2016

**To:** ALA Council

**CC:** YALSA Board

**From:** Candice A. Wing-yee Mack, YALSA President

**Subject:** 2015-2016 YALSA Annual Report

This year, YALSA's main focus has been to develop a new organizational plan and to begin aligning the organization's structure to support the new plan. The plan is based on the recommendations for re-envisioning libraries from our 2014 report, "The Future of Library Services for and With Teens: a Call to Action." The report called for a paradigm shift in the way which libraries engage with and serve teens, and highlighted cultural, social, and technological changes for which libraries need to be prepared.

Continuing from discussion and exploration that began last year, the Board diligently worked to draft a new organizational plan that will focus association activities and member resources to address the needs of the Call to Action. The new plan was adopted on April 29, 2016.

The highlights from this year's activities are framed below through YALSA's previous strategic plan goal areas: Advocacy and Activism, Capacity Building, Continuous Learning and Professional Development, Member Recruitment and Engagement, and Research and Documentation of Best Practice.

### **Advocacy and Activism**

*National Library Legislative Day, Board Advocacy Best Practices and Policies, Advocacy Resources Taskforce*

Through funds raised for the Friends of YALSA via #GivingTuesday campaign, two stipends were offered to members to attend National Library Legislative Day. Denise





Nominating Committee to make recommendations for changes, which will be submitted to the Board in June 2016 for adoption and implementation.

YALSA awarded two Volunteer of the Year Awards. Tara Smith was recognized for her work as the Chair of the Publications Advisory Board, and Melanie Wachsmann, administrative assistant of the Amazing Audiobooks Committee, also received recognition. The award acknowledges the contributions of YALSA members who have demonstrated outstanding service to the mission, goals and work of YALSA during a given service year.

Members who were selected to receive YALSA's Writing Award in 2016 included:

Alegria Barclay for best post on The Hub between Dec. 1, 2014, and Nov. 30, 2015: "[Black Lives Matter: Building Empathy Through Reading](#)"

Kylie Peters for best post on YALSABlog between Dec. 1, 2014, and Nov. 30, 2015: "[Collecting Marvel and DC Comics for Teens](#)"

Crystle Martin for the best article in The Journal of Research on Libraries & Young Adults: "[Connected Learning, Librarians, and Connecting Youth Interest](#)" Vol. 6 (March 2015)

Rekha Kuver for best article in Young Adult Library Services: "[Voices of Homeless Youth](#)" Vol. 13 (2) Winter 2015

President Candice Mack and the YALSA Board held three virtual town hall meetings/tweet-ups this year to discuss YALSA's organizational planning process and incorporating the Futures report.

Between July 2015 and June 2016 YALSA attended and participated in [ten state level conferences](#) to support members and to recruit new ones.

## **Research and Documentation of Best Practice**

### *Partnership Best Practices, Teen Programming HQ, Member Grants and Honors*

To help library staff build stronger connections outside of the library walls, and grow the number of teens who utilize library resources, the Board approved the creation of a Community Connections Taskforce, to provide resources, best practices, and toolkits that will assist library staff in developing partnerships.

In order to provide a one-stop-shop for finding and sharing information about library programs of all kinds for and with teens, YALSA launched the [Teen Programming HQ](#) in late summer 2015. This site features user submitted programs aligned with YALSA's

*It has been an honor to work with the YALSA Board, staff, and members this year as elected President and I am truly grateful to have been able to serve and give back to both YALSA and ALA in this capacity.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Candice A. Wing-yee Mack, 2015-2016 YALSA President*