

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago
July 9-15, 2009**

Topic: Mentoring Taskforce Final Report

Background: In June 2008 the YALSA Board established a taskforce to develop guidelines for implementing a pilot round of a mentoring program that includes a reverse mentoring component and best practices from other mentoring projects, including those from past YALSA mentoring programs as well as from the 2007 Emerging Leaders project recommendations. Their final report is provided below.

Action Required: Discussion

Dynamic Mentoring

Dynamic Mentoring is a new concept of interaction and knowledge sharing developed by the YALSA Mentoring Task Force to create engaging, active, and fulfilling mentoring relationships. We hope it will be a great tool for continuing the growth of YALSA's membership. The goal is not only guidance for new YALSA members, but for all team members to tap into each other's strengths and experiences.

The idea is that rather than having traditional mentoring pairs, we create Dynamic Mentoring teams who can benefit from each others', life experiences, current positions and different perspectives. Teams will be given discussion prompts and small projects to work on together, sharing knowledge and contributing to the larger work of YALSA. An additional benefit where traditional mentoring pairs sometimes falter if there is not an instant chemistry, is that Dynamic Mentoring teams can work together with a purpose and build relationships through the process.

Dynamic Mentoring teams

Our suggestion is that YALSA begin by recruiting ten Dynamic Mentoring teams. This would be for a one year commitment. Each team will consist of four YALSA members, with varying levels of experience. An ideal team would contain:

- A library school student.
- A librarian new to the field.
- An experienced teen service librarian or manager.
- A retired librarian, or former YALSA president.

YALSA members interested in participating will be asked these questions for forming teams:

- What's your favorite blog?
- Your most disappointing program: what did you learn?
- Your most successful program: what made it work so well?
- Social network tools: how are you using them? How are you setting personal/professional boundaries within social networks?
- How do you keep current?
- (Before Midwinter & Annual): Who's going to conference, what are you involved in? If you're not going, what would you like members who are to bring back?
- What's your favorite underrated teen book?
- What are your tech fears?
- Your plans for (Teen Read Week, Teen Tech Week, etc.)?
- What would be your ideal library school class?
- How do you evaluate programs?
- Strategies for setting good boundaries with teens?

Benefits and Expectations

Participation in Dynamic Mentoring will enable YALSA members to gain skills and tap into resources that will help them become stronger librarians and provide better services to teens. Library school students and new librarians will be connected with established professionals who can help guide them on their path and bring them into beneficial networks. Experienced librarians will be exposed to fresh ideas and new technologies.

Dynamic Mentoring mentors will be expected to commit to one year, with approximately 15 minutes a week of email and blogging, and 1 hour a month of online discussion.