

MSLA Awards and Criteria as of May 2014

08-09

Ellen Berne Pathfinder Award

DESCRIPTION: Ellen Berne was a pioneer in the field of digital school librarianship during the late 1980s and early 90s; she developed an index to the Internet, one of the first Subject Indexes. Her leadership made a positive difference in the use of the Internet, furthered the importance of library teachers, and enabled students to achieve better results when using the Internet. This Pathfinder Award celebrates groundbreaking developments in School Librarianship that promote student learning and is a fitting memorial to the life and work of Ellen Berne.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The applicant must be a Massachusetts library teacher who is state-certified or who has a professional degree as a school librarian and been a member of MSLA for the past 3 years. The project or program must break new ground in the field of school librarianship and make a positive difference in the school/district's library program and/or affect in a positive way school libraries on a state and national level.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: A letter of nomination may be written by the school librarian or by another member of the educational community (principal, co-teacher, superintendent). It should give specific details of the innovation, explaining how it enhances the school library program and promotes student learning. Accompanying pictures/exhibits that would assist in the explanation of the project/program are welcomed.

AWARD: \$500 Award This award money must be spent on resources that directly benefit the school library.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Write an article for the MSLA Forum and prepare an exhibit for the conference Exploratorium.

Joan C. Gallagher Legislator Award

DESCRIPTION: Through this annual award, MSLA recognizes the efforts of a legislator in Massachusetts who has, either within that calendar year or in the recent past, publicly demonstrated the value of school libraries by performing legislative duties that have an impact on the profession of school librarianship and education of Massachusetts school children.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The legislator recipient of this award demonstrates a commitment to advancing the role of the school library program and its staff in the educational process and works to introduce or support legislation that provides equity and current resources to students across the Commonwealth.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: The MSLA Executive Board, upon the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, will vote to present this award to a deserving legislator at the annual conference. This award may not be presented if there is not a suitable recipient.

AWARD: plaque

RESPONSIBILITIES: Speak briefly at the MSLA conference or Legislation Day; photo permissions for MSLA publications.

Audrey Friend Scholarship Award

DESCRIPTION: The Massachusetts School Library Association recognizes the importance of having certified library personnel in all schools and is aware of the ever-increasing costs of attaining the degree and/or certification necessary to become a library teacher. For this reason, MSLA wishes to demonstrate its commitment to our profession by sponsoring this annual scholarship award.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The applicant must be a Massachusetts resident currently enrolled in a school library certification master's degree program with plans to attend the college or

university during the next school year. S/he should also have a demonstrated need for financial aid.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: An application form plus: a) a resume including community and education-related activities; b) a personal essay stating reasons for entering the school library profession; c) a copy of the college or university acceptance letter or a letter from the program director. The Awards Committee is not obligated to designate a recipient if no applicant fulfills all eligibility requirements.

AWARD: \$500.00; one-year MSLA membership; paid registration for that year's conference. The committee may award up to 2 scholarships per year.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the MSLA Forum

Administrator Advocate for Excellence

DESCRIPTION: This award honors those administrators who have made significant contributions to the promotion of effective school library programs and services. It recognizes the responsible and influential role of the school administrator in developing successful school library programs within their own schools that influence the community at large.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: City, town, or district school superintendents, assistant superintendents, and building principals currently in administrative office and directly responsible for a school/group of schools at any level, are eligible for nomination by a member of MSLA.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: The individual making the nomination must be a member of MSLA and complete the Nomination Form. A supporting letter by the nominator must accompany the application form. This letter must substantiate that the administrator advocates for school library programs, recognizes the need for certified school library personnel, and supports the central role of the library teacher in developing effective school library programs that promote student achievement.

AWARD: plaque; Honoree will be recognized at the annual MSLA conference.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Permission to publish the nomination letter in the MSLA Forum.

Research Grant

DESCRIPTION: MSLA offers an annual \$3,000 grant to aid researchers in their attempts to add to the knowledge base of school library programs in Massachusetts through innovative research aimed at measuring and evaluating the impact of school library programs on learning and education in Massachusetts.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Preference will be given to applicants who are enrolled in an accredited college or university. Their formal proposal must already have been accepted by the appropriate officials at the college or university. Research could be for a degree, or for a class. Proposals from library educators and professionals in the field will also be considered. Membership in MSLA at the time of application is necessary.

Important considerations include: attention to the purpose of the grant; intellectual quality of the proposal; potential for significant impact on school libraries; completeness of the application

APPLICATION PROCESS: Narrative must include: membership status in MSLA; applicant's contact information; formal research proposal; college or university program; advisor's name and contact information; outline of expected expenses; timeline.

AWARD FUNDING: Up to \$3,000 in grant money from MSLA to help researchers defray expenses such as postage, paper, printing, statistics experts, and other related expenses. It could be one grant of \$3,000, or many grants that total no more than \$3,000 in one fiscal year. No hardware or software would be included in expenses.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The winner of the MSLA Research grant must agree to: submit a six month progress report, present the results of their research at the MSLA annual conference in the year following the year of their grant, and to publish a summary of the research

findings in the MSLA Forum. Recipients of the grant would have to give an accounting of expenses with receipts in order to be reimbursed. One third (1/3) of the award will be withheld until all obligations with MSLA are met.

Parents as Library Supporters (PALS) Award

DESCRIPTION: This award recognizes outstanding collaboration between a parent/teacher organization and school library.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Recipients may be any parent/teacher group working within a school or district, including PTAs, PTOs, or other parent/teacher groups with similar missions. In any given year, multiple groups may be recognized, but recipients may not be chosen each year. Entries are judged by a panel of school librarians.

NOMINATION PROCESS: A letter from the principal, superintendent, or other administrator in support of the application that describes the project and the collaboration between the parent/teacher organization and the school library; A letter from the parent/teacher organization highlighting parental involvement in the project; In 400-700 words, describe the collaboration. Please include detail about the goal, the program itself, and the results of the collaboration. While the librarian will normally be the author, this component may also be written by a member of the parent/teacher organization.

AWARD: Recipient(s) are recognized with a certificate at the annual MSLA conference in March. Announcements will appear in the MSLA Forum and press releases will be sent to state and local newspapers. Recipients are encouraged to write an article for publication in the MSLA Forum. (There is no monetary award.)

School Library Advocate Award

DESCRIPTION: This award honors individuals in the public eye whose actions have demonstrated a belief in the value of school libraries. The honoree will have advocated for school libraries in ways that have made a significant difference, especially to those in Massachusetts.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Potential recipients may be State officials, regional or local educators, teachers, or administrators. In any given year, the award may be given to multiple people/group.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: The MSLA Executive Board, upon the recommendation of a current Board member, will vote to present this award to a deserving individual/group based on the evidence of advocacy. The Executive Board may give multiple awards in any year, but does not have to be given each year.

AWARD: Plaque. Honoree will speak at the annual conference or Legislative Day and grant photo permissions for MSLA publications.

MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award (NEW award 2009)

DESCRIPTION: This award is given to a MSLA member who has contributed to the profession of school librarianship during the course of his/her 10+ year career. The honoree has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the service of students and 21st century learning and the advancement of school libraries.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Not contingent upon retirement, this award honors a Library Teacher or Director of Libraries whose career in school libraries has spanned 10 or more years. The individual has been a member of MSLA for a minimum of 7 years and has (or held if retired) state certification as a Library Teacher or holds an MLS. Up to three awards

may be given, but this award does not need to be given if a suitable recipient is not nominated.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: A nomination letter may be written by any member of MSLA. The MSLA Executive Board will vote to award this recognition.

AWARD: Lifetime membership in MSLA, plus something fitting....Not a trophy or plaque - something that is book-like but is commemorative of MSLA's gratitude.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the Forum - should be an interview with the honoree.

Area Director's Award: Massachusetts Super-Librarian Accolade (MSLA) (NEW award 2009)

DESCRIPTION: Area Director's Award: Massachusetts Super-Librarian Accolade (MSLA) One award per MSLA Area shall be given, for a total of six awards per year.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The Area Director's Award winners shall be practicing Massachusetts library teachers with a professional library degree or state certification as a library teacher who has been a member of the MSLA for the past three years.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: In each region, the Area Director will receive nominations from members of the respective region and may make recommendations him/herself. The AD will recommend the nominee to the Executive Board for final approval. Winners of this award may be nominated for additional awards, in the third year after last receiving it. There shall be an award given for each of MSLA's six Areas. If a region does not have a suitable nominee for an award, the region will not be represented in the award for that year.

AWARD: Certificate

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the MSLA Forum (each recipient should write an article)

President's Award

DESCRIPTION: This award honors an MSLA member who in a career of three or fewer years, has made a significant impact on student learning through a quality school library program. The individual may also have made a positive contribution to MSLA activities in the region or state.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Recognizes MSLA members who have been in the school library profession for less than 3 years, one per Area for a total of six awards per year. The recipients must have a professional library degree or state certification as a school librarian.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: In each region, the Area Director will receive nominations from members of the respective region and may make recommendations him/herself. The AD will recommend the nominee to the Executive Board for final approval. There shall be award given for each of MSLA's six Areas. If a region does not have a suitable nominee for an award, the region will not be represented in the award for that year.

AWARD: Certificate; 1 year subscription to Library Media Connection, donated by Linworth (Confirmed, 8/15/09)

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the MSLA Forum (each recipient writing an article).

MSLA Service Award

DESCRIPTION: Recognizing MSLA members who have made significant contributions to MSLA. This individual has demonstrated demonstration to the profession of school librarianship through leadership at the state and possibly at the national level.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The nominee will be have a long-standing record of service to MSLA, and have demonstrated leadership of school librarians within the state or nationally. This nominee has represented MSLA members in areas of advocacy, public relations, or other public forum and worked to make MSLA an organization that leads the profession of school librarianship.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: A current MSLA board member may write a letter of nomination for consideration by the Board. Up to three awards may be given each year. The MSLA Executive Board will make the final decision.

AWARD: Plaque

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the Forum

Web Seal of Excellence

DESCRIPTION: A school library's web presence is an important tool for teaching, learning, communication, advocacy, and public relations. This award will recognize excellence in school library's use of web tools: webpage, ning, wiki, blog, etc.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: School Library webpage maintained by the Library Teacher who has a member of MSLA for at least 2 years; must hold a professional library degree or be a state certified library teacher. Nominations will be evaluated using a rubric to be developed with specific criteria for judging the web devices.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS Application for this award can be made by the Library Teacher or other member of MSLA, submitting their school library web tools. Judging panel would perhaps involve non-Massachusetts school librarians, using a rubric with specific criteria for school library web devices.

AWARD: Up to five awards per year: Paper certificate; MSLA "Seal of Excellence" to be displayed on their webpage/blog/ning/wiki with year won.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the Forum – i.e. "How my library web presence enhances my program" or "My School Library Web Tools: Sharing my tips and tricks"