

## **Subject: Librarian – Media Specialist position**

Bringing the real-world and global perspectives to students has always been important to me. My personal experience working overseas in higher education, as well as in the media and non-profit sectors has underscored the essential skills we need to ensure a dynamic, responsible and sustainable society. Throughout my career in secondary education I have been focused on how the library plays a pivotal role in facilitating curriculum and instructional support to faculty, and critical life-long learning skills of students: from creativity and problem-solving, to digital citizenship, media literacy, and technology skills.

Over the course of the past ten years, I have been very fortunate to manage a wide spectrum of modernizing shifts as a librarian-media specialist. I have facilitated an 80% library upgrade at one older school; then helped open a state-of-the-art library in a brand new facility; updating collections with audio and ebooks; and working in a BYOD learning environment. With regards to curriculum, I have been on the front lines working with research skills and media literacy, inquiry and project based learning (IB curriculum, "Challenge-based learning", "Design Thinking," Genius Hour.)

Working together, faculty and students can accomplish remarkable things. Escape rooms, living wax museums, maker spaces, school news broadcasts, and "reader theater events" cannot happen without a team to coordinate. A pivotal experience for me in the past few years was the work I did with a dynamic CDC (Tanya Guinn) who I worked closely to coordinate "Career Cafes" in the library and a successful mentoring program. We co-taught a group of 8th graders on the development of career digital portfolios, supporting their motivation to pursue their own personal projects, while expanding their awareness of the politics of social media and positive character. Working with our CDC added an extra real-world connection to our space, inspired the students to take responsibility for their own journey from school to work, and deeply inspired me to want to work at the high school level. Inspiring faculty and valuing their contributions can reap big pay-offs. A signature PD I initiated was the "Innovative Learning Palooza." This edCamp style PD provided a stage for our faculty talent to share best practice and new learning technologies. Rather than a "top-down" PD, the event stressed the power of our own network to keep learning together, and to lean into each others strengths.

Just as faculty need to be given opportunities to lead, so do students. Supporting choice and voice fuels motivation, creativity and community building skills. In addition to supporting school-based projects, the library has always played a role in supporting student choice, whether in the form of self-directed reading, or extra-curricular activities. I have built up a robust "Readers and Writers Club" along with producing several book anthologies of student creative writing, Poetry Slams, animation and video production projects. One of the student projects I have been working on throughout my career is the "[Reader-Leader](#)" corps of students who help out in the library, giving them a sense ownership of the space, leading to invigorate the offerings and capacity in and out of the library. These "Reader-Leaders" have helped coordinate reader theater events; collaborated with art students on a children's book project; and have worked closely as reading buddies with the AU and special education students in an inspiring act of kindness and leadership.

Whether working overseas in higher education, or with special populations in public school, I believe my overarching success has been the result of being a gentle listener and someone who loves to inspire others with curiosity, humor and patience. As your media specialist I work alongside colleagues assuring that the library is an inviting and dynamic place for creative collaborations, critical discussions, experimenting with a new technology, but also enjoying a great book. I would love to join your team of educators to help make their job more successful and enjoyable. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joyce Deaton