

WLA 2014 Annual Conference—Panel Discussion

Successful Learning Accommodation in Schools and Libraries

May 9, 2014 2:15-4:00 pm at the Tarrytown DoubleTree Hotel

Free and Open to the Public

The panelists will address the following topics: providing library services to low vision and other special needs students at Manhattanville College; welcoming group home residents to a public library and working with challenged students for the school district in Ossining; using Assistive Technology for special needs students, particularly those with Autism and multiple disabilities, at Yonkers PS 29; understanding neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, including ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Merribeth Advocate, Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator of the Mid-Hudson Library System, will moderate the discussion.



Merribeth Advocate has worked at the Mid-Hudson Library System for 15 years coordinating a responsive continuing education development process resulting in 70+ training programs for 1,000+ public library participants annually. She also focuses on facilitating the collective success of the 66 MHLS libraries, determining current needs, forecasting future conditions, developing cost effective solutions, and assisting libraries in recognizing and responding to changing needs, increasing demands and evolving communities.



Paula Moskowitz has been a librarian at Manhattanville College since 1994. She is the Coordinator of Library Instruction and Special Populations. She coordinates library services to students with special needs. In 2009, she completed her second Master's in Educational Studies focusing on students with disabilities. Prior to her position at Manhattanville, she was a law librarian at the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison for eleven years.



Sasha Stock received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. She is currently employed as a Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow in the Child Welfare Department at the Westchester Institute for Human Development and completed her internship in Clinical Psychology at the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Sasha is also a former trainee of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders program.



Suzanne Zavarella has worked at the Ossining Public Library since 2008. She and her co-workers have created a welcoming space for young adults in the Teen Room. She is currently studying for her second Master's in Library Science. Suzanne also works part time for the Ossining School District as a home instructor for students with various challenges. Prior to her positions in Ossining, she worked for Transamerica Leasing Inc. as the Manager and then Administrator of the Contracts.



Carol Blakney received her Master of Science Degree in Speech and Language Pathology from Lehman College. She has been employed by the Yonkers Public Schools for the past 33 years as a teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal at the elementary, middle and high school levels. For eight years, Carol was the Principal at the Westchester Hills School 29, which serviced mostly special needs students, particularly those with Autism and Multiple Disabilities. At present, Carol is a Special Education Administrator in the Central Office.