



serve. advocate. connect.

Dear colleagues,

I am honored to be chosen by you as GLMA's president and hope you will continue on this journey with me in the work ahead as we persist in advocating for school librarians in Georgia.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it is clear there is much work to be done. The public health emergency as well as the political climate has both profoundly affected education and made clear the importance of libraries for supporting students and staff.

Our members, and school librarians across Georgia, have been deeply challenged, personally as well as professionally. Conditions for library programs and our positions have become difficult and worries about budget cuts are prevalent in conversations with our peers. We seek community and solidarity as we address the changing conditions of our work, including equal access to resources, adequate support staff, and a robust budget to support the needs of learning communities. In these circumstances, we must continue our efforts to make the case for school library programs at the school, district, and state levels by speaking about our expertise in literacy, technology, and supporting the social-emotional well-being of our students and staff.

As an organization, we have redoubled our efforts in our commitment to advocacy and effective communication to continue meeting the needs and concerns of our members and the wider school library community. We are committed to bringing you resources to support you at the local and state levels. We will continue to strive to put **community over competition**.

To help GLMA stay responsive and to strengthen our capacities in our ability to support you, please consider joining or rejoining GLMA or renewing your membership. Let your colleagues know that now is the time for the strongest possible advocacy, when our positions in education most urgently needs to be articulated and affirmed. **GLMA is only as strong as its members**. Your membership allows us be the most effective advocates for your work. I look forward to working with you this year, hearing your concerns, and spending time with you at the 2021 Summer Institute in Savannah, Georgia.

Warm regards,

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