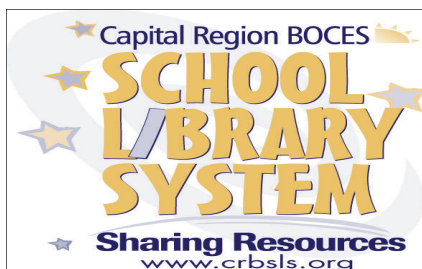


About the Keynote & Keynoter, Valarie Diggs

Make your school library a socially, academically and intellectually exciting and worthwhile place to be. Community, communication, collaboration and creativity form the foundation for a vibrant school library, where reading, literacy, inquiry, thinking, imagination, discovery, experimentation and creativity are central to student learning.

Valarie Diggs is the Department Head of School Libraries for the Chelmsford Public Schools. She has most recently completed the transformation of the Chelmsford High School Library to a true *Learning Commons* space. This transformation took place programmatically over many years and physically over the past year.

Diggs' *Learning Commons* program and space was the feature article in the April 2009 publication of *Teacher Librarian*. She also teaches The Organization and Management of School Library Media Centers for the Simmons Graduate School of Information and Library Science.



On March 19th, teachers, librarians, administrators and technology staff can visit with vendors of online resources at the conference. Come and see what new products these vendors have to offer. Try out their interface and talk with them about features you'd like to see in the future. Share your stories with them about how students use or might use these learning tools.

Library Media Specialists and Administrators Conference Capital Region BOCES Database Showcase College Park Hall, Union College, Schenectady, NY “Light the Creativity Fires: Illuminate the Mind in Your School Library” Valarie Diggs

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION/VENDORS

9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m. KEYNOTE WITH VALARIE DIGGS

9:45 a.m.-10:15 a.m. BREAK/VENDORS

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS

- Questioning: A 21st Century Learning Engine - *Mary Ratzer*
- Transform Your School Library into a Learning Commons - *Valarie Diggs*
- The New York State School Library Media Program Evaluation Rubric-What's in it for you? - *Linda Fox*

11:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. BREAK/VENDORS

11:30 p.m.-12:30 p.m. SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS

- Inquiry is for the Birds - *Liz Ryan*
- Transform Your School Library into a Learning Commons - *Valarie Diggs*
- Project Based Learning: Integrated Literacy Practices and Use of Media Center Resources - *Tech Valley High School Staff*

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. LUNCH/AWARDS PRESENTATION

1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. VENDOR TIME

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS

- Google Tools Update-Search, Collaboration & Productivity - *Polly Farrington*
- Author Roundtable with a Focus on Picture Books - *Rondi Brower*
- Project Based Learning: Integrated Literacy Practices and Use of Media Center Resources - *Tech Valley High School Staff*

Workshop Descriptions on Back

Workshop Session Descriptions

Session 1 -10:15-11:15

- **QUESTIONING: a 21st Century LEARNING ENGINE– Mary Ratzer**

Explore questioning at each stage in the design and implementation of 21st century learning experiences. Participants will engage in BIG IDEAS, strategies, and principles associated with inquiry and project based learning. Guided practice with questioning tools, question development, and pedagogy based on questioning will actively involve educators. Real world applications and modeling will boost confidence. Learner outcomes from strategies presented will be discussed in the light of research and emerging best practice.

Mary Ratzer was a SLMS at Shenendehowa High School from 1968 to 2003; adjunct for University at Albany, Department of Information Studies Teaching Curriculum 1987 to 2006; facilitator of Regional Information Inquiry Curriculum Writing workshops; Growing Into Inquiry professional development for Capital Region BOCES SLS; facilitator for Evidence Based Practice Workshops sponsored by SLS.

- **Transform Your School Library into a Learning Commons-Valarie Diggs**

What does it take to transform a School Library into a Learning Commons? This transformation is not just facility design, but programmatic change and community buy-in. This presentation will define a Learning Commons and will address changes in image and use of space that come with this new concept. The benefits of creating a Learning Commons will be discussed, including benefits to learners first and to the community as a whole.

- **The New York State School Library Media Program Evaluation Rubric-What's in it for you?-Linda Fox**

Based on research and driving toward inquiry, the new NYS SLM Program Evaluation Rubric has been adopted by the NY State Education Department as the tool to push your program into the 21st century. How might you use this tool? How will it be rolled out in your learning community? Is it a challenge, an affirmation or a threat? This workshop will review the rubric with suggestions and strategies to use it to the best advantage for your students.

Linda Fox is the Director of the Capital Region BOCES School Library System.

Session 2– 11:30-12:30

- **Inquiry is for the Birds-Liz Ryan, Claire McDermott, Stacy Bisanz**

A model of inquiry-based learning at the Kindergarten level.

Liz Ryan is a School Library Media Specialist, **Claire McDermott** is a Board Certified Kindergarten Classroom Teacher and **Stacy Bisanz** is a Kindergarten Classroom Teacher at Glen-Worden Elementary School, Scotia-Glenville Schools

Session 2, continued

- **Transform Your School Library into a Learning Commons-Valarie Diggs (Repeat)**

- **Project-Based Learning: Integrated Literacy Practices and Use of Media Center Resources -Tech Valley High School Staff**

Tech Valley High School was created in 2007 to provide today's students with the skills necessary to be successful in college and in tomorrow's workforce. The theme of the school is a strong emphasis on math, science and technology, however the reality is that students receive a well-rounded education that will prepare them to compete in the growing high tech and global economy that is emerging in the Capital Region's Tech Valley. Project-based learning brings together intellectual inquiry, rigorous real-world standards and student engagement in relevant and meaningful work.

Session 3- 2:00-3:00

- **Google Tools Update–Search, Collaboration & Productivity- Polly-Alida Farrington**

Google is no longer just a great search engine. It's also home to tons of tools that can help us collaborate in the library & classroom, work more productively, help us organize information and improve our search strategies. This session will be a whirlwind tour of as many useful new tools, tips and techniques as we can cover in 60 minutes. Please visit my blog to share YOUR favorite Google tools or let me know what you'd like to learn more about during the session: <http://blog.pafa.net/archives/tag/casda>

Polly-Alida Farrington is a former academic librarian with 17 years experience in reference, government documents, ILL and technology. Since 1996, she has been self-employed as president of PA Farrington Associates. She has a keen interest in how libraries are using technology and adapting to change. Polly is currently pursuing this interest by working with library systems around the country on Web 2.0 technologies, technology training and website design. More information can be found at her website: blog.pafa.net

- **Author Roundtable with a Focus on Picture Books -Rondi Brower**

Rondi Brower is owner of Blackwood and Brouwer Booksellers Ltd. for the past 16 years and has a BA from Barnard College.

- **Project-Based Learning: Integrated Literacy Practices and Use of Media Center Resources -Tech Valley High School Staff (Repeat)**