



March 29, 2016

Dear Administrators:

As you prepare your 2016-2017 school budgets, I would like to bring to your attention budget items that we recommend for inclusion in your yearly school library media budgets and/or professional development budgets. The Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME) is our state's professional organization for all school librarians, including public, charter, independent, and faith-based schools. Membership in this organization provides your school librarian with the tools he or she needs to create and run robust, relevant library media programs to help ensure our students are future-ready. Benefits of membership include monthly professional development webinars specifically tailored to the school librarian's needs; leadership development; monetary awards to schools with exemplary school library media programs; scholarships to FAME members furthering their education in the field of library and information science or technology integration; FAME publications including *Florida Media Quarterly (FMQ)*; local, state, and national advocacy efforts; and networking opportunities with librarians throughout the state.

FAME membership dues also go towards the running and management of the nationally regarded state student-choice reading award programs: Sunshine State Young Readers Award Jr. (SSYRA Jr. for students in K-2), SSYRA 3-5, SSYRA 6-8, and Florida Teens Read (FTR for high school students). According to publishers, FAME's reading programs have become so popular, that inclusion on our lists is one of the top generator of sales of children's books in the country. FAME also sponsors, runs, and manages the state-wide student film awards: the Jim Harbin Student Media Festival. Jim Harbin is an opportunity for students of FAME members to produce, design, and create videos and media in eleven different categories and compete regionally and state-wide.

Another benefit of FAME membership is our annual professional development conference, this year held October 19-21 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. FAME's conference is an intense, two and a half days of workshops, concurrent sessions, meetings, and keynote speakers focused on the needs of school librarians. This year we are pleased to be offering three keynote speakers: former principal Eric Sheninger, the author of *Digital Leadership: Changing Paradigms for Changing Times* and *Uncommon Learning: Creating Schools That Work for Kids*; Newbery-Award winning author Kwame Alexander, known for his diverse novels in verse; and the #1 New York Times bestselling author and "50 States Against Bullying Tour" speaker, Jay Asher. We also have a new school librarian whole-day workshop and four half day workshops. Educational and Curricular Consultant and author of *RX for the Common Core* and *Think Tank Library*, Paige Jaeger, will facilitate an instructional workshop on "Repackaging Research." Children's book author Paul Reynolds, CEO of FableVisioin, will facilitate a workshop on promoting creativity and storytelling for students. Currently, coding for students is a very hot topic in school libraries, and we will have a workshop on "Hour of Code." Our final workshop will be facilitated by principal and FETC favorite, Mike Meechin, on technology tools essential in education.

This year, the new education law, ESSA, recognizes school librarians as essential instructional staff, so FAME hopes that you will support your school librarian as part of your instructional staff by providing funding for FAME membership and conference attendance. FAME membership is \$60.00 for an individual membership, or \$180.00 for an institutional membership for up to four members of your school. Annual conference registration is \$165.00 with each workshop an additional \$60.00. This is an affordable investment in continued education for your school librarian so that he or she may provide the best services for your students. We hope you will budget the \$345.00 for 2016-2017 FAME membership, annual FAME conference, and two workshops. In supporting the professional development of your school librarian, every single student in your school will benefit from the resulting knowledge, enthusiasm, and best practices.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Miller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lucretia Miller
President
Florida Association for Media in Education