

American Association of School Librarians

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

October 26-30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Minneapolis, MN

I would like to thank the TEPS Committee and Mr. Hicks for giving me the opportunity to attend the 2011 Conference of the American Association of School Librarians, "Turning the Page", held in Minneapolis, MN. This national gathering of school librarians, held every other year, offers the best in school library practice from across the country. I took full advantage of my attendance at this conference to attend a ½ day pre-conference session on creating a high-stakes graduation project that would allow students to demonstrate excellence in independent learning and competencies in information literacy. This workshop had direct application to my daily practice, as I am "co-teaching" a class this semester for the first time with an English Department colleague called "College Ready II". Our course as it is currently designed includes a "passion project" which involves several components included in the project described in this workshop.

Most exciting for me, however, was the fact that I had the opportunity to present at the conference Exploratorium along with one of my colleagues from Lancaster. This presentation was a kind of "science fair" set-up, where our table was visited by literally hundreds of conference attendees over the course of two hours. Presenting at a national conference meets one of my professional goals and was truly a thrill. Our work with the Western New York Library Resources Council committee "High School 2 College" has been a true professional passion of mine for the past three or four years. I attended other conference workshops that addressed this same issue; one called "Information Literacy: Turning the Page from High School to College". Other workshops I attended included "School Libraries and Cloud Computing: Roles and Possibilities", "Helping Students Manage the Research Process: The Research Project Calculator", and "Facilitating Staff-wide "23 things" style Web 2.0 Learning Programs in Your School".

Each and every workshop attended offered food for thought on what my current professional practice is and how it can be improved. I thank you for your support of my professional development and the opportunity to attend this great conference.