

Introduction

In 2010, the UCR Libraries and 17 partner and affiliate institutions were awarded a \$974,259 Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant to implement the Inland Empire Librarians Educated to Advance Diversity and Service (IE LEADS) initiative. Primarily, the grant supports attainment of the Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree. However, preparing participants for leadership roles in a variety of library settings is critical to the success of our programme. To this end, librarians from partner and affiliate institutions have taken IE LEADS fellows under their wing and provided mentoring and project-based internships which are translating into marketable leadership experiences. They illustrate the commitment of librarians in Southern California to the cultivation of the next generation of librarians.

Highlights of a Few Mentors

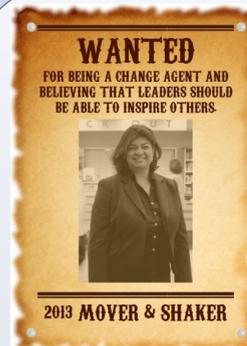


Dr. Patricia Smith-Hunt
Head of Preservation Services, UC Riverside



Julie Mason
Librarian at UC Riverside
Fellow at Patent and Trademark Resource Center

Witness statement: "I am proud to call Patricia and Julie mentors and leaders. I am humbled by their dedication to the profession and to the newly-minted librarians that they have nurtured. I am thankful to have been a part of this grand experiment and experience."



Michelle Perera,
Assistant Library Director at Rancho Cucamonga Public Library
Field: Public, 17 years
Impact on profession: Board of California Library Association, Infopeople Advisory Board
"[Leadership is] being able to vision and imagine what the future could be and be able to motivate and inspire others to join you on that journey."

Witness statement: "Michelle inspires everyone around her and really promotes public libraries and makes me want to be a public librarian. I love how innovative she is and the impact it has on her patrons and the fellows."



Michele Potter,
Head of Reference Services at UC Riverside, Orbach Science Library
Field: Academic, 19 years
Impact on profession: Spearheaded patron driven acquisitions initiative.
"[Leadership is] finding and utilizing the strengths and visions of individuals in order to move an organization forward."

Witness statement: "Michele's greatest impact was to help me overcome feelings of social anxiety and awkwardness in public services and outreach work... She modeled creative strategies for engaging patrons without putting any pressure on them or implying that they can't do things on their own."



Robert Karatsu,
Library Director at Rancho Cucamonga Public Library
Field: Public, 32 years
Impact on profession: Obtained over \$1,000,000 in grant funds (in 5 years) for his library.
"I feel that a true leader inspires others to innovate, dream, to be fearless and to do things they may not have thought they were able to do."

Witness statement: "Robert's dedication to the profession is realized in his going above and beyond for the IE LEADS program. He gave the program and the fellows 100% of his support and sponsored events at his library that were exciting and motivating."

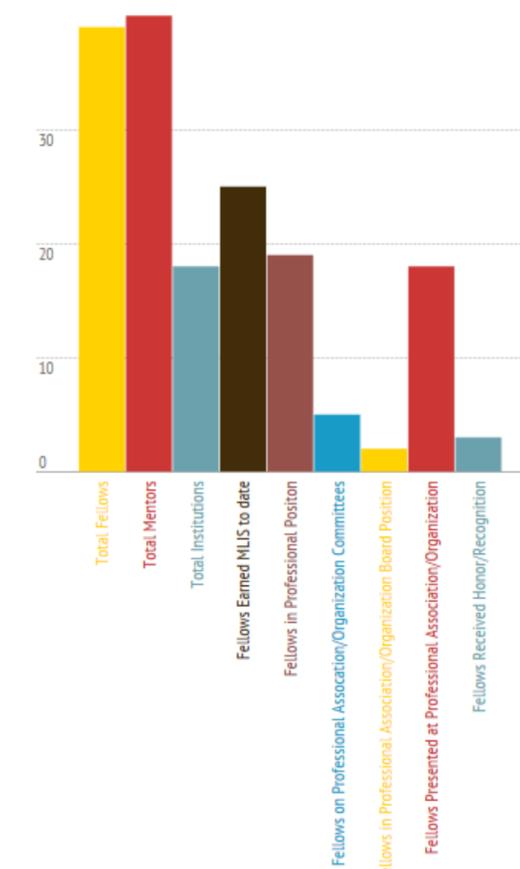


Michael Yonezawa,
Psychology Librarian at UC Riverside
Field: Academic, 18 years
Impact on profession: American Psychological Association Library Advisory Council
"Leadership is the ability to inspire, lead by example, and not be afraid to take on new or difficult challenges."

Witness statement: "Michael always showed me new resources that I never considered when doing reference work. When I began interviewing for librarian positions, Michael was very helpful and gave me terrific advice for my presentations. He is always encouraging and supportive which are excellent qualities in a mentor."

IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program = \$974,259

IE LEADS Fellows' Prof. Activity



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