

Home / The Enterprise / Community / Features

http://www.somdnews.com/enterprise/community/features/southern-maryland-librarians-graduate-leadership-program/article_d967967f-2d52-5b34-a5d4-8d7f76338ae4.html

Southern Maryland librarians graduate leadership program

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The STELLAR 2017 librarian graduates are, in front row, Rachel Gordon, left, Cynthia Lawrence, Glenda Fields, Sharon Reidt and Tess Goldwasser, and in back row, Sarah Guy, Shannon Gibbons, Melissa DeCesaris, Jenell Steis, Cecelia Thomas, Sarah Anderson and Christine Thompson. Not pictured is Eric Variz.

The Southern Maryland Regional Library Association's first graduation class of a public library leadership program saw 13 librarians receive certification for completing the six-month program.

The Southern Maryland Training and Education in Library Leadership Advancement and Readiness program, STELLAR, is the first of its kind for locally training librarians in leadership, and was developed by Jennifer Hopwood, the training coordinator for the regional library.

The 13 librarians who completed the STELLAR program were: Melissa DeCesaris, Shannon Gibbons, Rachel Gordon and Cynthia Lawrence of Calvert Library; Sarah Anderson, Glenda Fields, Sarah Guy and Christine Thompson of Charles County Public Library; Tess Goldwasser, Jenell Steis, Cecelia Thomas and Eric Variz of St. Mary's County Library; and Sharon Reidt of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association.

Hopwood was assisted in the training by six librarians from Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties that not only represented their systems, but acted as mentors to their fellow attendees. Those individuals were Colleen Cano and Megan Jones of Calvert Library, Ashley Teagle and Alyssa Williams of Charles County Public Library, and Mary Anne Bowman and Jill Hutchison of St. Mary's County Library.

"Having the participation of skilled library mentors was an important part of the program," Hopwood said in a release. "It gave the class diverse experience and role-models with whom they could interact, discuss and plan."

The six-month, six-session program, which began in September, focused on 13 different competencies to further develop library leadership. A competency on advocacy was also added and the program used the information from the StrengthFinder 2.0 assessment as a way to guide the participants on how to apply their strengths to these competencies.



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The program was free to the 13 library staff members. Hopwood hopes to begin a second STELLAR cohort for area librarians later this year.

For more information about STELLAR or the regional library, contact marketing@somd.lib.md.us or 301-884-0436.