

VALERIE BYRD FORT

Instructor

University of South Carolina
School of Information Science
South Carolina Center for Community Literacy
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EDUCATION

- 2023 - Ph.D. student in Teaching & Learning Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia
- 2019 – 2023 - Ph.D. student in Language & Literacy Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia
- 2015 - National Board Certification Renewal, Library Media / Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- 2006 - National Board Certification, Library Media / Early Childhood through Young Adulthood
- 2003 - Masters + 30
- May 2002 - Master of Library & Information Science. University of South Carolina, Columbia
- May 1999 - Bachelor of Arts (English Literature). University of South Carolina, Columbia

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2018 – Present – Instructor, University of South Carolina, Columbia
 - Courses taught:
 - SLIS 325: Children’s Literature
 - SLIS 720: School Library Program Development
 - SLIS 756: Children’s Materials
 - SLIS 754: Library Programming for Children and Young Adults
 - EDRD 500: Literacy in the Content Areas
- Fall 2018 – Fall 2023 - Coordinator, Cocky’s Reading Express.
- Fall 2005 – Fall 2018 - Adjunct Instructor, University of South Carolina, Columbia
- Fall 2008 – Spring 2017 – School Librarian, New Providence Elementary School, Lexington, South Carolina
- Fall 2002 - Spring 2008 – School Librarian, Dutch Fork Elementary School, Irmo, South Carolina

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International Association of School Librarianship – Member
- International Federation of Library Associations – Member and Information Coordinator of School Library Section
- Association for Library and Information Science Education – Member
- American Library Association – Member of Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award Committee
- American Association of School Librarians - Member
- Association of Library Service to Children – Member of Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award Committee and School-Age Programs Committee
- Children’s Literature Association – Member
- Children’s Literature Association Book Award Committee Member
- South Carolina Association of School Librarians – 2022 Presidential Advisor; 2008-2009 President; 2005-2007 Secretary. Have been a member of Editorial, Advocacy, and South Carolina Children's Book Award committees. Have presented sessions at annual conference.
- Beta Phi Mu, Beta Omega Chapter - Inducted into the Library and Information Science Honor Society, May 2003.
- National Advisory Council - School of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina

PUBLISHED WORK

- Supporting Dyslexic Readers in the School Library. *School Library Connection*, March 2021.
- Programming with Diversity in Mind: Conducting a Diversity Audit, *School Library Connection*, August/September 2019
- Writer, *Library Goddess* www.valeriebyrdfort.com - Author of blog posts pertaining mostly to literacy.
- 2017 – 2018, Writer, *Columbia SC Moms Blog* (<http://columbiasc.citymomsblog.com/>) - Author of posts mostly pertaining to literacy (directed to parents) for children of all ages.
- Book Reviewer, *School Library Connection*
- Writer, *School Library Messenger* (SCASL publication) - Author of articles pertaining to the interests of school library media specialists in the state of South Carolina.
- *Literacy Links*, January 2005 “Working with Your Literacy Coach,” “Author
- “BeSS won't Go There: a research report on filtering Software,” *Current Studies in Librarianship* 7-19 (2001) Research report with Jessica Felker and Allison Duncan.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 - LOC Resources - ALA
- 2023 - Growing our Own - ALA
- 2023 - Get Ready, Stay Ready Panel - ALA
- 2023 - Get Ready, Stay Ready: Community Action Toolkit with Dr. April Dawkins - Library 2.0
- 2023 - Examining LGBTQ+ Lead Characters in Picture Books Read During Drag Storytimes - ChLA Annual Conference
- 2023 - Library Policies for Administrators with Dr. Jenna Spiering
- 2023 - Presentation to State Museum
- 2023 - Get Ready, Stay Ready Community Action Toolkit - SCLA Webinar
- 2023 - Complex Collaboration with Dr. Jenna Spiering - Newberry School District School Librarians
- 2022 - West Metro Rotary Club - SCCCL/CRE Presentation
- 2022 - SCASL/iSchool/SCDE Regional Workshops (2 total)
- 2022 - Olde English Consortium School Librarian Conference - Intellectual Freedom & Diverse Books in Elementary Libraries & Classrooms
- 2022 - ALA and IASL - STEAM and LOC Resources
- 2022 Panel - Intellectual Freedom
- 2022 LISSA, Diversity in Children's Literature
- 2021 South Carolina Library Association Bilingualism Matters Poster Session with Kyungjin Hwang
- 2021 Polo Road Elementary Bilingualism Matters presentation for Family Literacy Night with Kyungjin Hwang
- 2021 "Civic Engagement: Education and Literacy" UofSC Capstone Scholars Student Group Presentation
- 2021 “Materials for Struggling Readers” IASL with Dr. Clayton Copeland
- 2020 "Youth & Social Technology" South Carolina Department of Mental Health - Virtual
- 2020 "Selecting Reading Materials for All Ages" SCASL Book Award Committees Meeting
- 2020 "Ideas for keeping your patrons engaged with virtual storytime, booktalks, and more!" Librarian.Support
- 2020 "Resources for Family Literacy" Bilingualism Matters Conference *cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2020 "Check out SCCCL and CRE!" SCASL Annual Conference concurrent session
- 2020 "Resources for Struggling Readers" SCASL Regional Workshops
- 2019 "Building Inclusive Collections" Charleston County School District Professional Development Workshop
- 2019 "Building Inclusive Collections" Richland 1 Professional Development Workshop

- 2019 “You Need Diverse Books! Promoting Diversity in Children’s Literature in your School Library – Grades K – 5” SCASL Regional Workshop
- 2019 “Community Outreach: How to Build Partnerships, Increase Reading Engagement and HAVE FUN1” SCASL Conference
- 2019 “Selecting Reading Materials for All Ages” SCASL Book Award Committee
- Guest, Elementary Librarian Podcast. “Collaborating with Other Librarians with Valerie Byrd Fort and Betsy Long.”
- 2018 “Reignite Passion for Reading.” SCASL Conference
- 2017 “Teamwork makes the DREAM work.” Presentation for Lexington 1 Professional Development
- 2015 “Simple MakerSpaces.” Presentation to Lexington 1 School Librarians
- 2012 “ReimagineED.” Presentation to Lexington 1 School Librarians and Technology Integration Specialists
- 2007 MySpace Uncovered Panelist Richland Library
- 2007 “Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, Oh My!” ETV Professional Development Conference
- 2006 “Why Blog? Why Podcast? Why Not?!” SCASL Conference

AWARDS

- SCASL Distinguished Service Award
- CIC Inclusive Excellence Awards
- Teacher of the Year, New Providence Elementary School
- Teacher of the Year, Dutch Fork Elementary School

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Master of Ceremonies for 2018 Read In
- Updated content for online Day by Day calendar for the SC State Library - 2018
- Updated printed book lists for SC State Library – 2018
- Cybils Awards Committee member – 2017 Easy Reader Book/Early Chapter Book; 2019 Picture Book
- Safe Zone Ally – University of South Carolina
- Teach My Kid to Read Board of Directors – 2019 - 2022
- Bilingualism Matters at USC Executive Board – 2019 - 2022