

May 19, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Heinemann Publishing
361 Hanover Street Portsmouth NH 03801
(a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Announcing the inaugural class of HEINEMANN FELLOWS, a talented group of educators who wish to pursue the shared goal of advancing the teaching profession.

Ten individuals were chosen from a host of highly qualified candidates whose applications reflected the highest professional standards and a passionate commitment to children and youth. Heinemann Publishing's primary purpose in establishing the group is to learn from practicing educators. Membership is not a reward for past accomplishments but rather an investment in an educator's originality, insight, and potential impact on the teaching profession.



The individuals listed below represent a well-rounded cohort, including those new to the profession, as well as educators with many years of experience. Classroom teachers, coaches, and administrators, they represent a range of grade levels and content areas; urban, suburban, and rural schools of varied socioeconomic status; and as broad a range of geographical, ethnic, and gender diversity as the pool of applicants permitted.

Most important, the first class of Heinemann Fellows collectively embodies the best the teaching profession evokes—a respect for and love of children and youth, a desire to learn how to listen deeply and respond thoughtfully to children, an insatiable curiosity about what conditions create the deepest learning, and a desire to learn from colleagues and to reflect on one's practice.

National literacy expert and Heinemann author Ellin Oliver Keene chairs the group. In a written statement to Heinemann staff, she explains the program will be:

rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of committed educators can collaborate to create new knowledge for our field. Like the well-known MacArthur Fellows who are described as “an extraordinary group of individuals who collectively reflect the depth and breadth of American creativity,” Heinemann Fellows will collaborate with other thoughtful educators; undertake original research projects in their classrooms, schools, and districts; publish their insights on Heinemann's Digital Campus; and inform Heinemann's editorial and professional development staff about life in American schools.

The selections were officially announced at the International Reading Association's annual convention on Saturday, May 10, in New Orleans. Read more about this exciting new initiative, including periodic updates and blog postings throughout the year, at www.heinemann.com. The group will meet in person twice annually. Each Fellow is expected to serve a two-year term, with the option to reapply.

Inaugural Class of Heinemann Fellows

Lisa Birno, Eden Prairie, MN; public school teacher, grade 6

Lorilee Cabrera, Springfield, MA; public school literacy coach

Amy Clark, Covington, LA; private high school English teacher and curriculum director

Valerie Geschwind, New York, NY; public school teacher, grades K, 1, 2, and 4

Jessica Lifshitz, Northbrook, IL; public school teacher, grade 5

Julie Nora, Pawtucket, RI; public, multilingual charter school director

Kate Norem, Seattle, Washington; independent school teacher, grades 2 and 4

Michael Pershan, Brooklyn, NY; independent school, middle grades, math teacher and curriculum advisor

Sascha Robinett, Los Angeles, CA; founder and principal of charter school

Tamara Ward, Kalispell, MT; public school teacher, grades K,1,5/6

ABOUT HEINEMANN

Heinemann is the national leader in publishing professional books and resources for teachers of language arts K–12 and has impressive and growing lists in math, science, social studies, and art education. Heinemann also has a professional development services division, which presents its authors and educational experts at workshops and seminars. More info at www.heinemann.com.

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