

# **Library Instruction Round Table: Alternate Councilor**

## **Candidates**

### **Linda Gray**

I believe cooperation between library staff will benefit us and frequently tell people that librarians invented networking. I have attended many Texas Library Association meetings and conference, in addition to opportunities offered by the Texas State Library. Now is a great time for me personally to become more involved and I believe this role is a start.

I am currently an academic librarian and the Director of the Blinn College Library in Brenham (TX). At the end of May I have been here for four years in this position. My 31 year career in professional librarianship has been at one other 2 year college, three public library's children's departments, and a private elementary / middle school librarian as a school librarian.

A high priority for me is quality instruction for students and faculty, whether that be in a classroom or individual setting, or online. As a library manager, I do some instruction in addition to guiding the librarians on our team. Each of our students and faculty need to know they are welcome in the library, and we are often up against prior experiences that were not as welcoming or not available to them at all. We need to serve in many modalities, whether that be face-to-face, online or for independent work provided online. We need to learn new means of serving our public regardless of the format. Librarians can continue to stay up to date; I don't ever see us becoming "dinosaurs".

There are other areas in our libraries that effect library instruction, like collection development. Our library is currently weeding materials, and this was not actively done for 20 years. I believe that a library with outdated materials, especially ones that can be offensive dealing with titles that contain terms like "Negro" or "Oriental", tell students if they are welcome here and if our material will help them succeed as students. Plus, if we have too much material to select from, they can be overwhelmed and not use our materials at all.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve librarians and library staff in a great profession.

### **Michelle Tuttle**

Tax dollars going to the privatization of schools and libraries can be dangerous. Decisions on staff and library operations are directly impacted. Having qualified and trained library staff in libraries is vitally important to ensure digital literacy instruction and to support the intellectual freedom of all community members. Public institutions (schools and libraries and government) must remain neutral and not silence any voices, cultures, or religions. Communities must unite to keep our libraries strong and relevant.