

Coventry Teacher Recognized by School Librarians of Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND - MARCH 2017 - Susan Murphy, librarian at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School in Coventry, has received the Mini-Grant Award from School Librarians of Rhode Island (SLRI). Announced at the annual SLRI conference, this award makes possible a future project that seeks to support student learning, improve a school library collection or program, and enhance the library and/or subject area curriculum.

Murphy plans to create a "Coding Corner" to support both curriculum and recreational interest in coding. In her application, she wrote: "With the national efforts on providing STEAM classes in tandem with Rhode Island initiative CS4RI, students at all grade levels in my school now take a trimester or semester STEAM class" in coding, robotics, or engineering.

Murphy will stock the repurposed space with magazines, books, instructional documents, and Raspberry Pi 3 kits, along with comfortable seating for individuals or small groups. She states, "The Coding Corner will encourage a blended learning approach to coding, [which] supports the diverse learning styles of students and the mission of the Media Center to help students become lifelong learners."

Rhode Island Chief Innovation Officer Richard Culatta, who addressed SLRI conference attendees, stated that librarians are "the biggest untapped resources in schools" for "reinventing what school does and looks like." He listed ways in which libraries are already serving as innovation hubs: supporting personalized learning, fostering problem-solving skills, replacing textbooks with open license materials tailored for individuals, teaching digital citizenship, and rethinking physical learning spaces.

About SLRI - www.slri.info - @SchLibRI

The purpose of School Librarians of Rhode Island shall be to (1) promote the improvement of instruction through opportunities that broaden the professional knowledge, understanding, and experience of its members; (2) provide leadership in defining, interpreting, and promoting effective library media programs to the community; and (3) serve as facilitator between the State Department of Education, Office of Library and Information Services, professional organizations, and the general public.

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