Thank you for your leadership and willingness to support the Illinois Reading Council’s Professional Learning Committee’s (PLC) mission of providing the most current literacy educational resources and instructional pursuits for IRC members throughout the year. As your local council’s PLC liaison, you will be charged with the two overarching responsibilities outlined below.

1. The local council liaison acts as a conduit between the IRC PLC Chair, their council and its membership. Although there may be no formal in person committee meetings during the year, the IRC PLC Chair may host a virtual meeting as well as regularly communicate with the local council liaisons. The intent and purpose of the Professional Learning Committee is to provide vetted resources on topics of importance for literacy teaching and learning, and updates on national and state educational initiatives. Thus, the PLC goal is to provide quality instructional pursuits that will be of benefit for your council’s membership. Communication is a collaborative effort. With that in mind, each local council liaison will be asked to submit topics of interest to our “Literacy Learning Links Padlet” or other literacy teaching resources (see next page for options) regarding instructional practices for optimal literacy learning. Local council liaisons with the support of their council board or membership will submit literacy learning information that they have found to be beneficial to support students optimal learning. IRC PLC Chair will gather this and other literacy learning information and share with the local council liaison on or around each IRC Board Meeting when other opportunities present themselves. This will provide a “loop” of communication between the local councils and the IRC PLC Chair. The liaison will support the local council and the PLC in the following ways:

   • notify council membership of updated resources the PLC Chair and liaisons share throughout the year
   • utilize PLC in seeking answers to questions regarding educational initiatives
   • inform PLC Chair as new professional literacy learning interests are identified

2. Each council within IRC’s 10 statewide regions will make a commitment to provide resources for the Professional Learning Committee’s Padlet, and/or an article for an issue of the IRC Communicator. Each council will provide a submission during their designated calendar date or at any time valuable literacy learning information becomes available. It is your role, as local council liaison, to identify and submit to the IRC PLC Chair, minimally one of the following: (Specific examples are provided on the accompanying page.)

   • timely resources to share with IRC members on the Professional Learning Committee “Literacy Learning Links Padlet” (replacing Livebinder)
   • a review of a professional trade book for the IRC Communicator
   • an informative literacy article including, but not limited to, topics such as best practice, instructional strategies, current educational initiatives

Please submit resource links through the Google Form. Other submissions will be sent to the Professional Learning Committee Chair at: pd@illinoisreadingcouncil.org. by the local councils assigned due date or whenever resources become available. This will allow for sharing of new resources at the quarterly IRC board meetings, IRC Communicator, local council newsletters etc. or when appropriate.

Please contact the PLC Chair if you require further clarification regarding your role on this committee. Thank you for your continued support of IRC’s mission to promote and teach lifelong literacy.

With much respect for all you do for literacy learners,

Laura Beltchenko pd@illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Professional Learning Committee Chair
Resource Submission Options
Professional Learning Committee
Local Council Liaison

Please consider submitting during your obligatory assigned timeframe or whenever a valuable resource presents itself.

1. The Literacy Learning Links Padlet contains categorized columns leading to websites educators have found to be beneficial in their work implementing educational initiatives. To submit a resource for the Literacy Learning Links Padlet please complete a brief Google Form that will provide the IRC Chair with necessary information to include the resource in the Literacy Learning Links. (At this time, Local Council Liaisons have been granted permission to submit the form.) The Padlet can be accessed at the following link: https://padlet.com/lbeltchenko/x90ie3h6hjgjblsj. In the Padlet, you will notice categorized topics in columns of resources that include but not limited to: Informational Text, Social Emotional Learning, Writing, Assessment, Gifted Education, Culturally Relevant Teaching etc. As you navigate to the right, additional columns will appear. Based on IRC policy, submissions are not to be endorsing a product. Ex. a specific reading program that only those using the product can assess the links.

2. The IRC Communicator article is any informational piece written by you or one of your council members for publication in IRC’s e-newsletter. Visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/irc-communicator for sample articles written by council liaisons including:

   • Strategies for Struggling Readers in February 2021,
   • Don’t Pandemic About Time Management in the November 2020,
   • Flipping Out Over Flipgrid in August 2020.

The articles, limited to approximately 400 words, can be written specifically to meet your council’s submission requirement. Also consider an article that has already appeared in a current or previous edition of your council's newsletter that other IRC Councils will find of benefit. Please be reminded submitting something written by another author may be infringing on intellectual property or copyright unless permission has been granted. If it is an IRC council member submitting their own work directly to IRC, they are granting their permission to publish.

3. A Professional Book Review is a narrative summary of the text intended to guide members to professional titles you or your colleagues have found valuable in the literacy teaching and learning process. Visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/irc-communicator to read the book review of Bored and Brilliant: How spacing out can unlick your most productive and creative self, Manoush Zomorodi in March 2021, IRC Communicator.

Please remember, this is our collective, collaborative and collegial contribution to support ALL educators in their quest to provide optimal teaching and student learning resources and materials. We are all in this together. L.B.