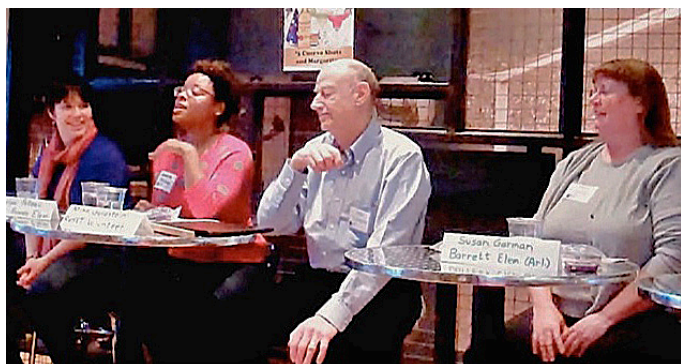


The ReSET Report

Chief Executive Officer: Harold Sharlin
Executive Director: John Meagher

New Volunteer Evaluation Program Gives ReSET Greater Impact



Anya Jones, Lavanya Poteau, Mike Goldstein, and Susan Garman from ReSET's January 26, 2014 training seminar.

ReSET recently added a new and valuable dimension to its volunteer training program. Approximately 60 volunteers had the opportunity to attend one of two training seminars held at the Trademark restaurant in Alexandria and the Public Bar in Tenley Town. There they interacted with seasoned volunteers and learned how to improve and enhance their classroom sessions. A four-person panel of teachers, administrators, and veteran volunteers gave presentations on how to “Optimize Your Impact in the Classroom,” followed by a lively question-and-answer session. In the second hour Professor Sherri Kohr of George Mason University gave a presentation on Teaching and Learning in the Sciences.

Sherri has agreed to serve as ReSET's volunteer evaluator. In addition to speaking at two ReSET training events a year, Sherri will attend classroom sessions to observe and provide feedback to volunteers on their presenta-

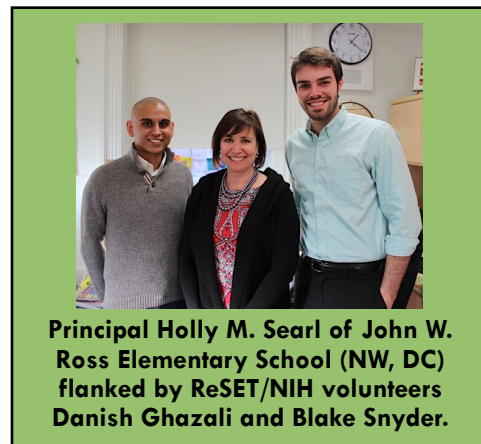
tions and experiments. According to ReSET Executive Director John Meagher, this is a rare opportunity for volunteers to get practical suggestions from an expert on how to make their ReSET sessions more effective. “Our volunteers have amazing credentials,” says Meagher. “But few have teaching experience, and even fewer have

worked with 10-year-olds. Sherri's work will give our programs greater purpose and impact.”

Sherri has worked for the National Zoo, the Museum of Natural History, and served as a teacher and Science Coordinator in a K-8 school for 25 years. She now works as an adjunct professor at George Mason, mentoring future teachers in how to teach science.

After each class that she observes, Sherri prepares a writeup that lets the volunteer know where she thought the program was on target and where improvements might be made. “I try to make helpful suggestions about content, activities, and classroom management, and I often later continue the dialogue with volunteers via email, to chat about their progress or offer advice about a particular problem they may be having,” Sherri shares. “My goal is to be a resource to each presenter on teaching methods, age-appropriate activities, and options for teaching materials.”

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Principal Holly M. Searl of John W. Ross Elementary School (NW, DC) flanked by ReSET/NIH volunteers Danish Ghazali and Blake Snyder.

CONGRATULATIONS!
to ReSET Partner School Principals

Carolyn Albert-Garvey
(Maury Elementary School, DC)
&
Brandon Davis
(Cora Kelly School, Alexandria, VA)

Washington Post 2014
Distinguished Educational
Leadership Award Winners

THANK YOU
to Our Training
Seminar Panelists!

- Susan Garman, Teacher, Barrett Elementary
- Lavanya Poteau, Administrative Officer, Amidon-Bowen Elementary
- Anya Jones, Volunteer, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland
- Lenin Paulino, Volunteer, USPTO
- Danielle Clerkley, Volunteer, USPTO
- Michael Goldstein, Volunteer

Science Quiz Answer:

4



P.O. Box 9400

Washington, DC 20016-9400

How many planets has the Kepler telescope discovered outside the Milky Way that could potentially support life?

... See inside for the answer

("New Volunteer Evaluation Program ..." continued from front)

At the inaugural training sessions in January, both new and experienced volunteers came armed with eager questions: "How do I control the class when it is unruly?" "What if I don't know the answer to a student's question?" "How do we know they've actually learned what we've taught them?" Sherri is very impressed with the caliber of ReSET's volunteers. "As I explain to colleagues, ReSET volunteers know the material very well—they are incredibly intelligent. My goal is to help each presenter mold that knowledge in ways young children can find exciting, engaging, and memorable!



Although volunteers are not required to avail themselves of Sherri's services, they are strongly encouraged to do so. Sherri understands that this might be a little daunting: "It is always a bit unnerving to have someone watch you teach. I have been in the 'education' business for more than 30 years, and I still feel some anxiety when I am observed. I work hard at what I do and I want my teaching to be just right. There is no ONE way to teach, and when I come to observe a ReSET volunteer, I am not looking for 'mistakes' but rather to participate in the class along with them so that I can get a feel for what tools and techniques might be most helpful. Volunteers devote so much time and energy when teaching for ReSET, and I want them to have fun and feel successful!"

Volunteers who are interested in inviting Sherri to attend and observe one of their ReSET sessions, please send an email to sherri.kohr@gmail.com.

ReSET Wishes
to Express Special
Thanks to
U.S. Airways
&
**The
Community
Foundation for
Northern Virginia**
for their Generous
Support of ReSET
Hands-on Learning.



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