



# Heartland Chapter

Serving IA, KS, MO, NE, OK



College Reading & Learning Association

## Heartland Spring 2013 Conference

### Join us at Mahoney State Park, NE

Join your Heartland colleagues at our annual conference **April 11-12<sup>th</sup>**. This year's theme is "Building Bridges" and will focus on how we can help learners to build bridges from the skills they come in with to the skills they need to have in order to be successful students.

Please consider submitting a proposal to present a session or lead a discussion group at the conference. Share what you are doing to help students bridge their gaps.

The conference will be held in the Peter Kiewit Lodge at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park in Ashland, Nebraska. The park nestles on 700 acres along the picturesque Platte River. Nearby attractions include the Strategic Air and Space Museum, Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari, Quarry Oaks Gold Club, and Iron Horse Golf Club.

Watch the heartland listserv for more information regarding registration, lodging, and session proposals. Shari Clevenger is Heartland's President-Elect and 2013 Conference Chair.

## Leadership Positions

Two positions need to be filled at the spring conference. This year you are asked to consider taking on the responsibility for president-elect or treasurer. Both positions are important to the organization and provide experience in working for our organization. The duties as listed in the by-laws are:

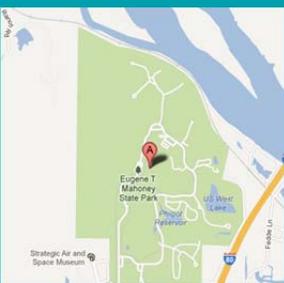
### The President-Elect

- serves as Site/Program Chair for the spring conference of the Chapter;
- chairs the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and general membership meetings in the absence of the President;

- attends the Leadership Workshop at the CRLA conference; and assists the President in administration of Chapter business

### The Treasurer

- pays all bills approved by the Chapter and substantiated by receipts;
- keeps accurate financial records for Chapter funds;
- provides detailed financial reports at each general membership meeting; and
- prepares books for audit each fiscal year (January 1 thru December 31).



## 1.5 Days at the Houston CRLA Conference




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*"We also need to contribute gold-standard research to journals outside our field and issue white papers on critical issues."*



Karen Agee is a Reading & Learning Coordinator Emerita at the University of Northern Iowa and a longtime Heartland member.

Once again the CRLA planners and on-site folks put on a great conference! The last time CRLA shared a conference with CASP—the annual October conference of the Texas chapters of CRLA and NADE—was in 2006. This 2012 shared conference was even bigger, with the theme of Exploring New Angles on Student Learning & Diversity. (The beautiful downtown hotel inspired the “new angles” theme, with wedge-shaped guest rooms.) I’d like to share with other Heartlanders some of the key events for me. Dr. Victor B. Sáenz (U. of Texas at Austin) keynoted at the First General Session on November 8 with “The Disappearing Men of Color in Higher Education.” His grant-funded [Project MALES](#) tracks Latino and African American men in Texas higher education. Dr. Sáenz shared demographics that made a strong case for all of us around the country to support the academic success of this critical population. Another important event at the First General Session was the induction of two new CLADEA Fellows. The current Fellows of the Council of Learning Assistance and Developmental Education Associations (<http://www.cladea.net/>, of which CRLA is a member), chose Rosemary Karr and Sandra McGuire to join them as honored Fellows, for their scholarship and service to the field. Russ Hodges, chair of the Council, emceed the moving induction ceremony. President Norm Stahl’s address on Friday morning was an eloquent call for CRLA and its members to contribute to a body of research in the

field, increase opportunities to earn terminal degrees in reading and learning assistance, and critically review the reports published by entities outside our field. To better accomplish this last purpose, we should all read a book by Daniel T. Willingham, *When Can You Trust the Experts: How to Tell Good Science From Bad in Education* (2012, [Jossey-Bass](#). CRLA should also undertake its own critical assessments of our field to provide important information to policy makers on such practices as accelerated programming, integration of reading and writing instruction, modular courses, formal adjunct courses, peer-assisted learning, bridge programs, and SI. Our models have been usurped by others, and we have not disseminated to the higher education community our own assessments. We also need to contribute gold-standard research (which requires random assignment to groups and meticulous statistical analysis) to journals outside our field and issue white papers on critical issues. I’m not even halfway through the conference but have overrun my word limit, so let me end by saying this: The annual CRLA conference is so important to my continuing professional education, even though I’m now retired and have no institutional funding, that I will attend the 2013 conference, November 6-9, in downtown Boston.

Visit: [http://www.crla.net/2013\\_conference/index.htm](http://www.crla.net/2013_conference/index.htm) to learn even more. Let’s all go!

-Karen Agee

## Chapter Business Meeting at Houston, TX

Our semi-annual business meeting was held November 8<sup>th</sup> during the conference in Houston, TX.

The treasurer's report and spring 2012 minutes were read and approved.

**Old business** was discussed:

Members shared progress of recruitment efforts in their prospective states. Shari C. brought a directory of Oklahoma instructors to our attention; she will follow up with how we can obtain one and if they exist for other states as well.

Vicki P. has stepped down from her role as Membership Coordinator; Frances G. is going to pick up the materials Vicki has been housing for the chapter and they will be sorted through at the Spring conference.

The Scholarship Committee is going to draft an application form and advertisements so that we can offer 1 or 2 \$200 scholarships for the Spring Conference.

**New business** items were discussed:

The chapter now has a facebook page!  
[www.facebook.com/HeartlandCRLA](http://www.facebook.com/HeartlandCRLA)

In reference to recruitment efforts, updates to the Heartland website were discussed, Andi R. will work with the new management company to move things forward. Also it was discussed that we need a Heartland brochure for mailings, Mark W. is going to work on this.

The Spring 2013 conference was discussed: The date of April 11-12 was chosen to accommodate Easter plans and best access to meeting space at Mahoney. Based on the evaluations from the 2012 conference and members present, the theme "Building Bridges" was chosen. A CRLA board member will speak concerning how we can best help learners to bridge the gap between the skills they have and the skills they need to be successful.

As there were no other new business items, the meeting was adjourned.



Celebration designed by Scott Lewis from The Noun Project



Briefcase designed by Ana Gonzalez from The Noun Project

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*Scholarship(s) for travel to the Spring 2013 conference will be offered through the chapter!*

## Tips for Student Success

At the Houston conference Lori collected ideas from attendees on how to help students. Every month a few of them will be posted on the CRLA homepage. The tips for Decembers are:

With a classmate make a list of "study busters," things that interrupt or distract you from your studies. With each study buster on your list, agree upon a remedy or alternative.

-Tom Siebold,  
Studyingforcollege.com

Notice the effectiveness of your tutors. At the beginning of the tutoring session ask learners their level of confidence with the material on a scale of one to ten. Then, at the conclusion of the tutoring session, ask learners their level of confidence again on the same scale and notice the increase. Tutoring does make a difference!

-Preston Preston VanLoon,  
Student Success Center Director,  
Cloud County Community College

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*Visit CRLA.net for new tips every month!*

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**Joe Barnhill Receives Award**

At the CRLA conference in Houston, Texas Joe Barnhill was the recipient of the Karen G. Smith Special Recognition Award. Joe Barnhill is the Director of Learning Services and Disability Services at Avila University. He has taught in the Avila Advantage program since 1999.

He teaches economics, finance, statistics and math courses. C

**Congratulations Joe!****CRLA 2013 Conference in Boston, MA**

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual conference is set for November 6-9<sup>th</sup>. The call for proposals will be coming out soon, and the deadline for submissions will

be April the 1<sup>st</sup>. Consider submitting a proposal with some of your Heartland colleagues.

**Remember to Apply for Scholarships**

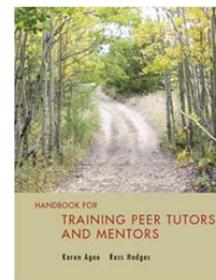
CRLA has amazing scholarship and award recognition opportunities! Now is the time to start applying for these awards. Due dates are not yet updated for 2013 but from year to year there is little change, so get

moving on your applications! Find out about each one by going to the CRLA Scholarship and Awards website:  
[www.crla.net/scholarships&awards.htm](http://www.crla.net/scholarships&awards.htm)

**New Handbook Available**

The new CRLA Handbook for Training Peer Tutors and Mentors is available for order now! It covers everything you need to create or improve your training program. For more info visit:

[www.crla.net/handbook/handbook\\_overview.htm](http://www.crla.net/handbook/handbook_overview.htm)

**Stay Connected!****Tweet!**

Join CRLA's twitter Tuesdays professional development chats by following @CRLApd and tweeting with the hashtag: #crlachat

**Facebook**

The Heartland chapter now has our own Facebook page! Check it out and "like" it:  
[www.facebook.com/HeartlandCRLA](http://www.facebook.com/HeartlandCRLA)



From the Heartland board,

**Happy Holidays!**