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## President's Message

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# President's Message...

by Lisa Rivard, President 2015-2016

Now more than ever, schools and communities are in need of skilled leaders to guide advocacy, support, and improvement of the quality of education and community life. Strategic leadership development is an indicator of a healthy nonprofit organization. Michigan Reading Association spends considerable time providing guidance for our current and future association leaders through awareness of organizational sustainability, team-building and mentoring opportunities. MRA's leadership development takes a number of different forms, from an annual board of directors' retreat to one-on-one coaching and work through our regional and special interest councils.



**Lisa Rivard**

As an association, MRA is guided by a strategic plan based on the values expressed in our mission statement: *The Michigan Reading Association is a dynamic and diverse organization whose mission is to promote literacy.* As we continue to promote our mission and move the organization forward, the MRA Board of Directors and Regional Leaders are in the process of establishing new standards of excellence informed by ambitious goals and clearly defined strategic actions and outcomes.

MRA will continue to plan for organizational health and sustainability while sustaining efforts to serve our members and to influence social change for literacy. Providing our members with the latest research and education services will remain a priority for the organization as a means of informing and inspiring our members in their educational settings. MRA will continue to partner with Michigan State University to provide MRA members with a highly respected journal that features the field's leading research across Michigan and beyond. A hearty thank you is extended to the editorial board, contributors, and subscribers who promote the mission of MRA with the creation of one of the best educational research journals in the country.

*Dr. Lisa Rivard is the 2015-16 President of the Michigan Reading Association. Lisa is employed as a Language Arts Consultant at the Macomb Intermediate School District and assists regional schools in developing effective literacy plans. Dr. Rivard is a graduate of Michigan State University's nationally recognized College of Education. Most recently Lisa completed a PhD in instructional technology from Wayne State University where she teaches classes for district and building level administrators.*