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## President's Message...

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# President's Message...

by Carol Paul, MRA President 2018-2019

Dear Literacy Leaders,

John Dewey (1916) wrote, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself" (p. 239). This quote could not be more meaningful today! As sociocultural factors are shaped, a new story of education unfolds. Educators, I ask you, "What do you want that story to sound like, look like, and more importantly whom shall this story influence?" In the traditional classrooms of yesterday, students and teachers were bound by four walls. With so many technological advances, we are no longer obliged to teach within the walls of our classrooms. Let's begin changing traditional education by getting our students immersed in long-range problems that have yet to be solved. Global issues such as, malnutrition, inequality, gender parity, and climate change are just a few issues that need an audience of critical thinkers. Hutt (2016) reported that by 2050 the world must feed nine billion people. Educating our students on the impact of global food shortages now will increase our chances of finding sustainable solutions in the future. As John Dewey did in 1916, I implore you to use life experiences as educational tools, instead of education as preparation for life. Overall, it is through our acquaintance with the past that will build our future.



**Carol Paul**

Educationally yours,

Carol Paul

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Carol Paul is the 2018-2019 president of the Michigan Reading Association. As an MI Excel ELA coach, she primarily works with educational improvement teams to enhance instructional practices and provide professional development and instructional coaching to staff with the goal of raising student achievement. Mrs. Paul is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University (B.S.), University of Michigan-Dearborn (M.A.), and Wayne State University (Ed.S.). She is currently enrolled at Capella University seeking a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education, specializing in curriculum and instruction. She can be reached at [capaul0813@gmail.com](mailto:capaul0813@gmail.com).