

LiteracyLinks

The Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors



Portland LITERACY Council

March 2023

Save the Date: April 22, 2023 -- PLC 2023 Conference
Meet PLC's Newest Board Member: Angela Scott
PSU Rosenbaum Leadership Program Intern, Salena Keys-Kukoricza
Job Announcement for PLC's Executive Director

Save the Date!

PLC Conference April 22, 2023

PLC's annual tutor [conference](#) is back -- and in person! Join us for a day of connection and inspiration. We can't wait to see you!



Meet PLC's Newest Board Member Angela Scott

Angela Scott joined PLC as its newest board member at the end of 2022, after serving for a brief term as PLC's volunteer Communications Coordinator. Angela's board service will focus on PLC's communications efforts, including expanding PLC's reach in the literacy community.

Since graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a degree in journalism and media studies, Angela's career has centered on banking, but always with a focus on customer service and community alliances. After spending almost 15 years at JP Morgan Chase in a

number of roles, Angela moved to Umpqua Bank where she is their Client Engagement Manager. What she loves most about Umpqua Bank is "the spirit" of the people, and "how connected the bank is to mobilizing community service. We get 40 paid hours a year for volunteering and it's not a benefit that just sits there." As Angela explained: "Banking has a lot to give back to society. We're currently in a season of humanity in banking, which is very nice. And right now, banking's mission is aligned with providing opportunities to serve."

Originally from Wisconsin, Angela and her husband Jeff moved to Portland in 2019, after six years in L.A. Angela is "so happy to be in Portland. It's got the same niceness and soul that Wisconsin had, and the same sort of intellectual elements that you find on the east

coast too. I love it here so much!"

Angela's long-standing commitment to literacy volunteerism drew her to Portland Literacy Council. While in college, Angela served as an adult literacy tutor. "The experience was grounding. Through volunteerism I came to realize what an advantage and privilege it is to have received an education. I never had to think about it; it was a default for me. But a number of systems inhibit education opportunities for many." The first student Angela tutored was an incarcerated youth, raised by a single parent who did not have the resources to set him up for success. Angela recalled the moment she realized how literacy was "at the core of self-empowerment. It's such a fundamental part of being alive and being able to contribute and participate in society. Several socioeconomic issues are fundamentally due to a lack of empowerment. If we can treat that, we could change lives and ignite community vitality."

Angela has also put her banking skills to use with financial literacy training, for example, while volunteering in April 2019 at Rose Haven, a women and children's day shelter. After Angela brought some materials to share as a group facilitator, she recalled a client responding, "Thanks, but I can't really read that well." Angela remembered thinking, "Of course, literacy limitations are often fundamental to disenfranchisement." It was this moment when Angela started thinking more about broader literacy, and ultimately sought out a volunteer position with PLC.

Angela and Jeff live in southwest Portland with their dog Bill. Angela also loves to read. "All of my favorite things revolve around literacy. What would I do without my words? I wake up every morning and journal and read for a little while, and while I eat my breakfast do a crossword. I love all of those things, and all of those revolve around literacy and words." She also enjoys golf, collects records and books, and loves being outside. "We've been here for 4 years, and we're still learning new places and love trying new (to us) restaurants. I like to try different walks throughout Portland, and we're very happy to be close to wine country."

While on PLC's Board, Angela's main goal is to "spread the word, create awareness, and increase the impact we're able to have through a bigger, stronger army of tutors in the community."



Salena Keys-Kukoricza, PLC's Rosenbaum Leadership Program Intern

Salena Keys-Kukoricza is PLC's inaugural Rosenbaum Leadership Scholar. The Portland State University program was created for honors students to be matched as interns with a local non-profit board to develop leadership skills by engaging with and receiving mentorship from non-profit organization board members and executive directors. After being accepted as part of a competitive application process, the intern is placed for service over the course of the academic year.

A senior PSU psychology major, Salena hopes one day to build a career as an integrative psychologist, both conducting research and practicing therapy, while offering patients a holistic approach to treatment. Salena was excited to successfully earn the Rosenbaum scholar award, and also to be matched with PLC, where she will focus on learning more about how non-profit boards function. "Previously I had a friend who encouraged me to tutor--she said, 'you've got to tutor, it's super rewarding.' So, I took a PLC tutor training workshop and just soaked in all that knowledge. Right now I'm trying to take as many opportunities and experience as many things as possible to push me forward, and I really want to hone in on some leadership skills. When my advisor mentioned PLC, I really liked

the mission and I felt I could learn a lot from it. This volunteer opportunity is giving me the chance to see first hand how a small non-profit works."

A Portland native, Salena is currently developing her senior thesis, in which she plans to focus on "performance activism," and specifically how it has developed in Portland since the beginning of the pandemic. After graduating from PSU, Salena plans to pursue a doctorate in psychology, perhaps in New York. During her time at PLC, Salena will gain skills outside her major which she hopes to use later to further her professional goals of serving patients with mental health needs, perhaps in a non-profit setting.

Outside of school and volunteering, Salena describes herself as "adventurous and curious. As a child I was very shy and sort of a homebody, but now I have a curiosity for life and experiences. My philosophy is that being uncomfortable is necessary for growth. So I take as many opportunities as I can, when they are presented to me." In 2019, Salena decided she would like to "try running. So I trained for it, and then spur of the moment, I researched and found a marathon in Paris. So I flew to Paris on my own for my first marathon. When I do something, I've got to go really big."

Job Announcement for PLC's Executive Director

The [Portland Literacy Council](https://portlandliteracy.org) (PLC) is excited to be hiring our first Executive Director. This is a part-time, contract position with an incredibly flexible schedule. We are looking for someone with non-profit experience, particularly in fundraising, administration, board support and budgeting.

If there is anyone in your network you think might be interested, we would appreciate you sharing the position with them. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please send an email to kokearny@portlandliteracy.org.

Portland Literacy Council ↓
[Portlandliteracy.org](https://portlandliteracy.org)



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