

# **The University Library & Student Success: What's the Connection?**



2018 MUASAA Symposium



# Hello!

I'm **Laura Birkenhauer**

I've been with the Miami University Libraries since 2011

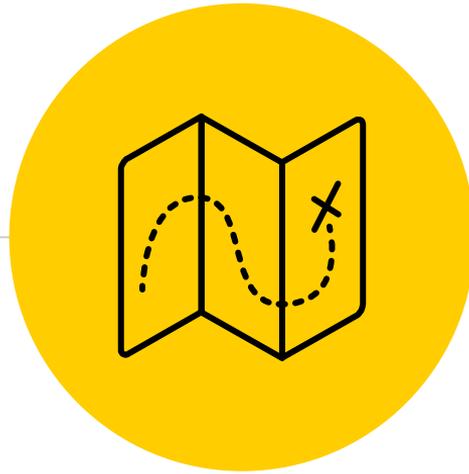
In June 2018, I was hired in a newly created position:

**Student Success Librarian for Campus Engagement**



**“What exactly does the library  
have to do with student success?”**





# Defining Student Success

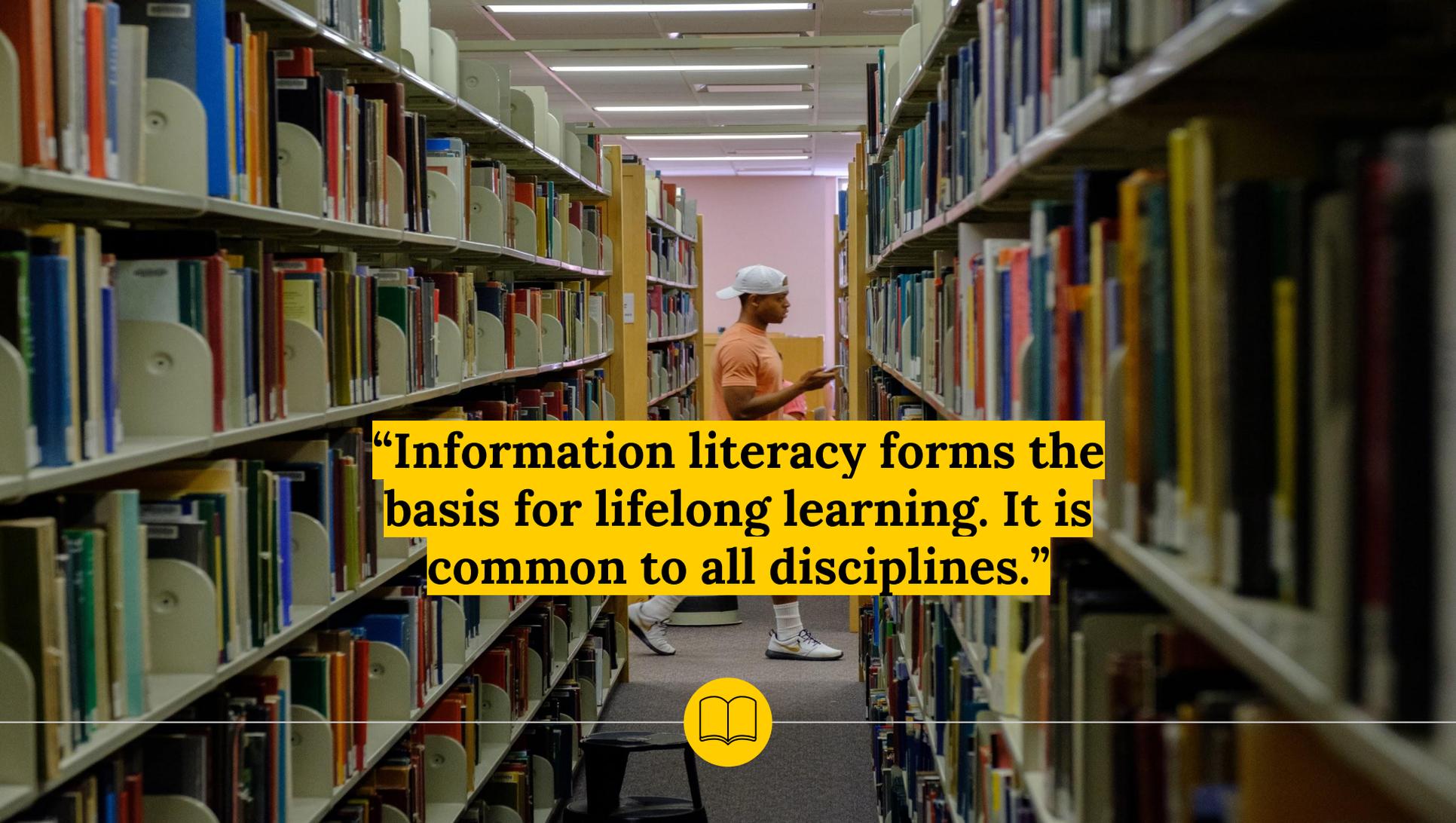
Retention, graduation & beyond

*“In recent years, a handful of additional elements of student success have emerged representing new dimensions, variations on common indicators, and harder-to-measure ineffable qualities [such as, for example] information literacy”*

*Kuh, Kinzie & Buckley, 2007*



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A photograph of a library aisle with tall bookshelves on both sides. A man wearing an orange t-shirt, a white baseball cap, and white sneakers is standing in the aisle, looking at a book. The shelves are filled with books of various colors. The lighting is bright, coming from overhead fluorescent lights.

**“Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines.”**



*“Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.”*

*Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, 2015*



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# **Libraries**

Perfectly positioned to support success

*“[...] student success is defined as academic achievement; engagement in educationally purposeful activities; satisfaction; acquisition of desired knowledge, skills and competencies; persistence; and attainment of educational objectives.”*

*Kuh, Kinzie & Buckley, 2007*



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*“Student success is also linked with a plethora of desired student and personal development outcomes [...] includ[ing] a range of learning and personal development domains such as cognitive complexity, knowledge acquisition and use, humanitarianism, interpersonal competence, and practical competence[;] becoming proficient in writing, speaking, critical thinking, scientific literacy, and quantitative skills; and employment, postcollege income, civic engagement, and job and life satisfaction.”*

**Kuh, Kinzie & Buckley, 2007**



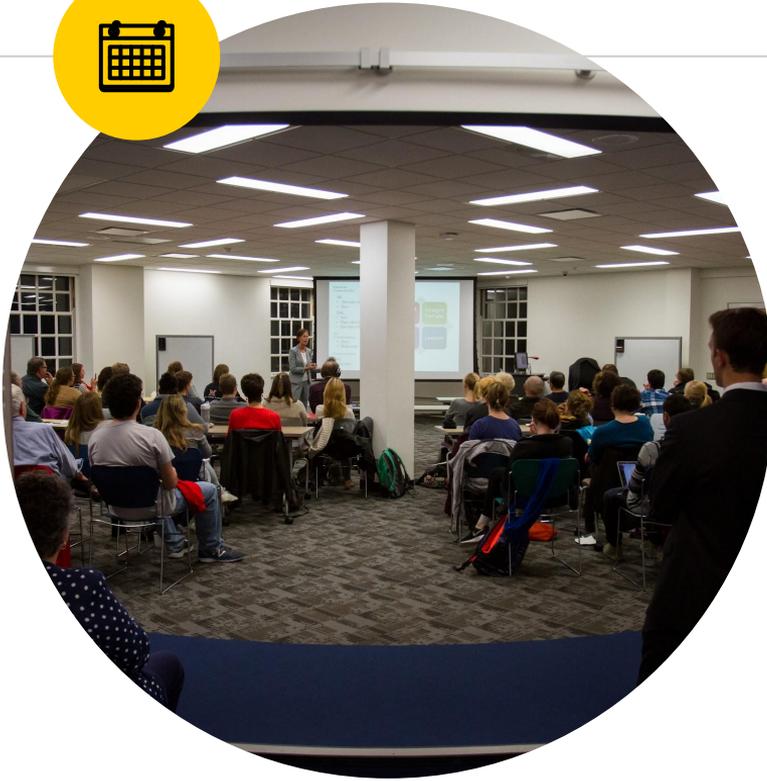
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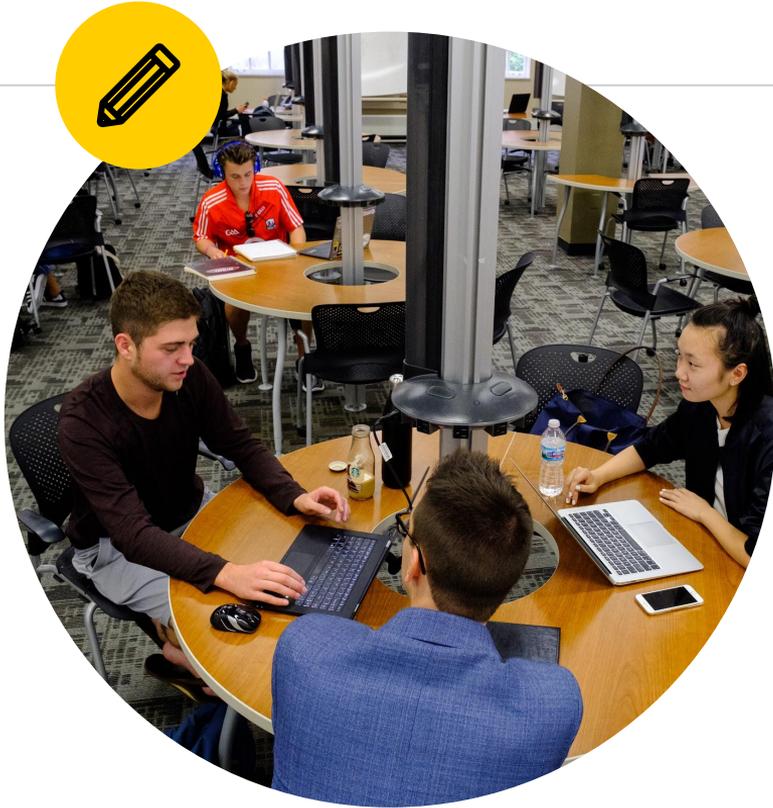
# Initiatives That Work

Focus on collaborations

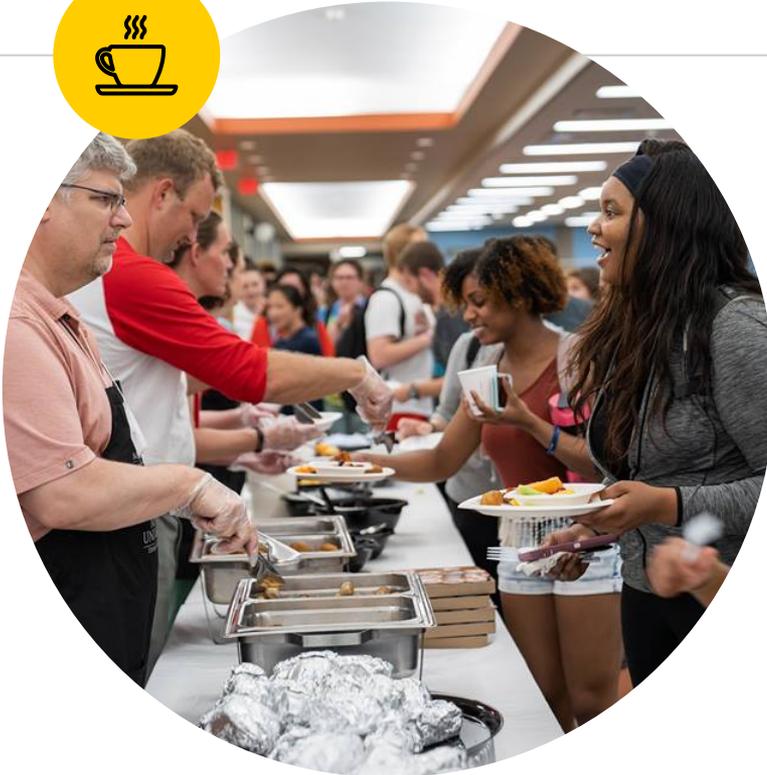


## Workshops That **Work**

The Libraries have partnered for years with the **Rinella Learning Center** to offer a menu of workshops on topics ranging from academic integrity to the best mobile apps for students.



**Research & Writing The Right Way**  
With the support of the **Howe Center for Writing Excellence** the Libraries have hosted increasingly well attended drop-in research and writing help tailored to students in the **ACE Program**.



## Supporting Study **Breaks**

With **Student Activities** and the **Alumni Association** we've hosted two very successful Late Night Study Breakfast events.



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# In-Progress Programs

Focus on collaborations

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## Current Collaborations

### Reading Buddies

With a **CAS** instructor, piloting a volunteer program pairing English language learner students with students interested in reading, reflecting and discussing MU Libraries texts.

### Scare & Share

Working with the **Department of Theatre** to host an event following the *Echoes of Miami* play focusing on information creation, production and dissemination.

### [Insert YOUR Idea!]

How might **you or your campus unit** partner with the Libraries to support student success and engagement at Miami? I welcome your ideas!



# Thanks!

*Any* **questions?**

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