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MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) NAMES PAULA M. KREBS NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Respected scholar and administrator brings breadth of experience
to the MLA as organization seeks to expand its reach.**

“Paula Krebs is a scholar of demonstrated passion and commitment, dedicated to articulating the value of the humanities, supporting academic standards, and strengthening the professional standing of all those who teach and work in humanities-related fields.”

—Diana Taylor, president, Modern Language Association

(New York, NY) — The [Modern Language Association](http://www.mla.org) is pleased to announce that Paula M. Krebs will become the fourteenth executive director of the association on August 1, 2017. Krebs, who is stepping down as dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bridgewater State University, will succeed Rosemary G. Feal, the MLA’s executive director since 2002.

During her tenure at Bridgewater State, Krebs worked closely with the college’s faculty members on strategic planning and sought to increase community engagement. She organized a regional consortium of employers, public humanities representatives, and higher education leaders to develop strategies for defining and measuring the postgraduation success of humanities majors. Before arriving at Bridgewater State, she was special assistant to the president for external relations at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, an American Council on Education Fellow in the president’s office of the University of Massachusetts, and a professor and department chair at Wheaton. She has also been a regular contributor to higher education publications and [writes a column](#) for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*’s blog *Vitae*.

“When the search committee began our work, we hoped to find a leader who would bring a broad perspective to the organization, and Paula Krebs does exactly that,” said Anne Ruggles Gere, the chair of the executive director search committee and first vice president of the MLA. “Her commitment to supporting all members of our profession; her experience working with partners from the community, government, and business; and her advocacy of the value of humanities study will be vital to her work at the MLA.”

Krebs is a longtime member of the Modern Language Association and was on the MLA Executive Council from January 2013 to January 2017. She was also a member of the association’s Nominating Committee (2009–10) and served on the executive committee of the Association of Departments of English (2003–05), the MLA’s organization for English department chairs. “The MLA has been central to my professional life since I was a graduate student. I have long been involved in the work of the association as a volunteer and an elected representative, and I am honored and excited to be asked to lead this talented and dedicated staff,” said Krebs.

She takes the reins of the organization as it seeks to reach new audiences, including community college teachers and members of the larger humanities workforce. “We have come far as an association under Rosemary Feal’s stewardship—in recognizing the broad range of institutions that constitute American higher education, in bringing attention to the concerns of faculty members at teaching-focused institutions and faculty members off the tenure track, and in broadening our sense of our discipline,” observed Krebs. “I look forward to building on our momentum and championing the value of the study of the humanities.”

About the MLA

The Modern Language Association of America and its 24,000 members in more than 100 countries work to promote the study and teaching of languages and literatures through programs, publications, an annual convention, and advocacy work. The MLA provides opportunities for its members to share their scholarly findings and teaching experiences with colleagues, discuss trends in the academy, and advocate for humanities education and workplace equity. The MLA sustains a wide-ranging print and electronic publishing program that includes books, journals, style guides, and an international bibliography. Through the Association of Departments of English and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages, the MLA also supports the work of department chairs and directors of graduate studies. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.