Renee Hobbs

About Renee Hobbs. Professor Hobbs is an internationally recognized authority on digital and media literacy education. As Professor of Communication Studies at the **Harrington School of Communication and Media** at the University of Rhode Island, Renee Hobbs is Founder and Director of the **Media Education Lab**, whose mission is to improve the quality of media literacy education through research and community service.

Research. Renee Hobbs maintains an active research agenda that examines the intersections of the fields of media studies and education. Her work specifically examines the impact of media literacy instructional practices on academic achievement. She is the founding co-editor of the *Journal for Media Literacy Education*, an open-access peer reviewed journal that is the official journal of the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE). She has published more than 130 articles in scholarly and professional journals. Books include*: Exploring the Roots of Digital and Media Literacy through Personal Narrative, Discovering Media Literacy: Digital Media and Popular Culture in Elementary School*, *Digital and Media Literacy: Connecting Culture and Classroom*, *Copyright Clarity: How Fair Use Supports Digital Learning* and *Reading the Media: Media Literacy in High School English*.

Professional Development. As an experienced teacher educator, Hobbs offers staff development programs for educators across the United States and around the world. With her colleagues, she created the URI **Graduate Certificate in Digital Literacy**, a 12-credit graduate program that engages K-12 and college faculty, librarians and media professionals in robust face-to-face and online learning. In the early 1990s, she created the first national teacher education program in media literacy, the **Harvard Institute on Media Education** at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Advocacy. Renee Hobbs co-founded the national membership organization for media literacy education in the United States. She has advocated for the use of mass media, popular culture and digital media in education and works to increase visibility for digital and media literacy at the national and international level. She has sought and received exemptions from the U.S. Copyright Office regarding the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) in permitting the legal "ripping" of DVDs by educators, helping to advance the benefits of digital learning for all teachers and students. Her white paper, *Digital and Media Literacy: A Plan of Action* offers a blueprint of pragmatic actions to bring media literacy competencies to all Americans. It was released in Washington D.C. in 2010 and co-published by the Aspen Institute and the Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy. In 2012, Hobbs served as the Digital Literacy Fellow for the **American Library Association Office of Information Technology Policy**.

Media Production. Renee Hobbs is a multimedia producer and has developed numerous award-winning resources for K-12 students and educators. **Mind Over Media: Analyzing Contemporary Propaganda** is a user-generated content website for teaching and learning about propaganda. Hobbs developed **Powerful Voices for Kids**, a university-school partnership that demonstrates the application of media literacy in urban elementary education. **Assignment: Media Literacy** is a media literacy curriculum developed with support from the Maryland State Department of Education and the Discovery Channel. The U.S. Office on Women's Health provided funding for Hobbs to create **My Pop Studio**, an award-winning online edutainment game that introduces tween girls to media literacy concepts and takes girls "behind the scenes" of popular music, television, magazines, and online media.

Renee Hobbs received an Ed.D in Human Development from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, an M.A. in Communication from the University of Michigan, and a B.A. with a double major in English Literature and Film/Video Studies from the University of Michigan.