



# South Central Regional Library Council

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility (DEIJA) Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 15, 2024 11:00 AM Minutes**

**Present:** Rachel Dworkin (Chemung County Historical Society), Karin Wikoff (Ithaca College), Nancy Abashian (Binghamton University), Allie Shanafelter (Corning Museum Of Glass), Beth Hylan (Corning Museum of Glass, retired)

ex officio: Christine Brown, Jessica Philippe

**Excused:** Jenny Shonk (Finger Lakes Library System); Virgilio Pinto (Ithaca College)

### **Notes from Last Meeting ([Minutes 8/20/24](#))**

#### **Around the Table**

**Nancy-** Binghamton University Library has a [new exhibit](#) on the history of Black fraternities and sororities on campus. They are applying for a LEAD (Library Excellence in Access and Diversity) award again and Nancy mentioned that they are one of the recipients of the SCRLC Prism awards that will be given out at the annual meeting. They are also moving forward with their big project on decolonizing their collections.

**Rachel-** They have a ghost walk coming up and will have another indoor ghost walk in February which will hopefully include a Black character. She is also participating in a book discussion on James by Percival Everett.

**Karin-** She has been participating in a book group as part of IC's Antiracism Institute and they are reading *How to Have Antiracist Conversations* by Roxy Manning. The Institute is hoping to re-focus as a group that hopes to be more active and responsive to events on campus. Karin will be attending the DCTC Roundtable at Ithaca College, which Christine is chairing. Karin is working on evaluating the projects that they worked on with Dr. Bright's guidance. They have additional funds that they are discussing how to allocate. Terri Beth Ledbetter is working with Ithaca College's archives on a project related to historical diversity on the IC campus.

**Allie-** Their busy season is winding down. The DEI museum group hasn't met in a couple of months. The employee resource group has planned some LGBTQ events in the library. They had their first book reported for outdated views of indigenous groups and it will now go through a review process.

**Beth-** Beth is involved with a book group that is reading banned books including *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

## **DEIJA Learning Opportunities**

- 9/17 DEIJA Learning Circle
  - Low attendance. We may try another learning circle directly following an upcoming program centered around a DEIJA topic.
- [Dyslexia-Friendly Libraries](#), December 3, 2 pm
- Difficult Conversations Webinar with Maurice Coleman- save the date for January, 28, 11 am
  - This will cover how to navigate difficult conversations with patrons, colleagues, and stakeholders. How to deal with them in the moment and process them after the fact.
- Creating Equitable Library Policies webinar with Jill Hurst-Wahl- save the date for February 5, 10 am
  - Possible policies that will be covered include codes of conduct, dress codes, and bereavement policies. Participants will bring policies they want to review and update.

Christine also mentioned that she is the Chair of the Diversity Consortium of Tompkins County Roundtable which was a successful event held at Ithaca College on Thursday, October 17.

## **DEIJA in the SCRLC News**

- Review of reports in recent *SCRLC News*
  - Dr. Debbie Reese shared info on a children's book on Code Talkers – Aug 23
  - Seymour Public Library – Painted a rainbow on the pole of their sign – Sept. 6
  - Library Freedom Project – Witchwords and the Opposition – Sept. 20
  - Scio Memorial Library – Voter Registration sign – October 4

Committee members are always welcome to contribute items. It has been a mix of member library activities and activities or suggestions from outside the membership.

## **SCRLC Intern**

- Alison may work with the DEIJA LibGuide
  - Possible topics to add to the LibGuide would be a tab on serving the unhoused populations; something of the science of reading?
  - Perhaps she can attend our next meeting

## **SCRLC Prism Awards for DEIJA**

- There will be two Prism awards given out at our annual meeting. Binghamton University and another recipient will both receive well-deserved awards for their work

## **DEIJA Advisory Committee Activities**

- The proposed [Activities List](#) was approved and will be updated on the website.

## **Other**

- Plan of Service Design Team. At the next meeting we can discuss combining the DEIJA plan with the upcoming POS.

### **Upcoming Meetings 2024-2025**

December 17, 2024

February 18, 2025

April 22, 2025

June 17, 2025

Minutes taken by Jessica.