



**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility (DEIJA)
Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:00 AM
Minutes**

Present: Karin Wikoff, Ithaca College; Rachel Dworkin, Chemung County Historical Society; Jenny Shonk, Finger Lakes Library System; Christine Brown, SCRLC

Excused: Virgilio Pinto, Ithaca College; Beth Hylen, Corning Museum of Glass (retired); Allie Shanafelter, Corning Museum of Glass; Jessica Philippe (SCRLC), Mary-Carol Lindbloom (SCRLC)

Notes from Last Meeting ([June 17, 2025](#))

Around the Table

Jenny shared that they recently distributed period products to 10 member libraries through their grant program. The products will be available in the library's bathrooms and the target audience is disadvantaged people including minorities and the geographically remote. She also shared that they purchased the book titled "Twelve Steps to a Community Led Library" by Audrey Barbakoff and Noah Lenstra for each of their libraries. It has DEI baked into its origins. Audrey will be at their annual meeting.

Rachel shared that they are partnering with the Jewish Center Federation to document history of Jewish people in the area through collecting oral history. One example of someone who is included is a woman who left Germany during World War II and went to China before eventually ending up in Chemung County. Rachel also shared that they will have a Smithsonian Exhibit titled "Voices and Votes" on the topic of the Women's Suffragist movement starting in October and running through November. And they will have an exhibit on Japanese War Brides in December. She also shared that through one of SCRLC's Digitization grants that they will have material on the Women's Suffrage movement available digitally.

Karin shared they are working on the Village of Aurora to become a party to the archives of Wells College though that has been challenging. She made a final check of the bathrooms in the IC library to make sure there were period products in all of them (including the men's rooms). She is hoping that someone will take on the LibGuide on DEIJA she created though what she really wants is for someone to take on the work even if they don't continue the LibGuide.

Status of the DEIJA Plan Revisions [DEIJA Plan](#)

Christine shared that the DEIJA Plan is part of the plan of service and when the final Plan is completed, it'll include DEIJA components. The DEIJA Plan will then need to be revised to reflect the new plan of service.

DEIJA Advisory Committee 2025/2026 Activities List

Christine shared a revised list and everyone present liked it. It will be shared with the entire committee and discussed at the October meeting.

SCRLC Plan of Service

Christine shared that SCRLC is working on the plan of service. The instructions for the new Plan haven't been released yet but the information we've received is that there will be some minor changes so we're using the instructions for the 2021/2026 Plan. She also shared that we've done a survey and now we're working on Regional Conversations. We have four more scheduled for September and October and all are invited to attend. We also are working to hire an intern to process the data for us.

DEIJA in the SCRLC News

Christine shared information about the topics mentioned in SCRLC News since the June meeting and asked that everyone share what they are doing that covers DEIJA so we can add it to our newsletter and share it with all members.

Reasons for positivity/hope

Christine shared that IMLS may be reauthorized and \$3 million was added to LSTA funds for a total of \$183 million. Rachel mentioned that we're still here doing our DEIJA work and there was discussion about that. It's good that we're continuing with the work even though it may feel like we're just treading water.

Next Steps/Meetings – Our next meeting will be on October 21.