



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
610 QUINCY ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.394.4171

NORTH PARTNER LIBRARY
10 VAN BUREN ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.716.4098

RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



Date: March 9, 2020
To: RCPL Board of Trustees
From: Sean Minkel; Assistant Library Director
Re: 2020 Public Library Association Conference Report

Summary: I attended the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference for 2020 in Nashville from February 25-29, 2020, which provided me with opportunities to network with vendors, investigate new ideas, and learn from what other libraries around the world are doing. Additionally, conferences are one way that librarians acquire the 30 continuing education hours for certification.

Overview:

The sessions I attended provided information that will help guide the next strategic plan, staff training, improved customer service, and the upcoming bookmobile. Conversations with current and potential vendors also allowed for hands-on experience with hardware and software as well as providing time for one-on-one conversations about improving existing services. Everything that was learned will be shared with other supervisors and library staff over the coming weeks.

Sessions attended:

- From Takeaways to Taking Action
- Opening Session with Stacey Abrams
- Big Ideas with Dr. Bettina Love
- Decreasing Barriers to Library Use
- A Global View of Leadership Skills Development
- What Your Onboarding Says About Your Organization
- The Bookstore Model of Customer Service
- Big Ideas with Haben Girma
- A Moonshot Initiative to Boost Circulation
- Who Needs Consultants? A Practical Guide to Strategic Planning
- Staff Inclusion in Decision-Making, From Big Ideas to Cat Chats
- Early Literacy in Unexpected Places

Lastly, the conference served as an inspiration – not only for where our library will go, but also a reminder of the ideals that make us unique. We strive for equity and the inclusion of all people and ideas, education, and informed decision making.