

## SDSL Public Library Institute Training 2024

### “Administration & Advocacy”

Held at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD from June 2 – 7, 2024

#### **Attendance:**

22 students from 19 different libraries across South Dakota attended.

#### ***6 graduating students:***

- Misti Burns, Tripp County Public Library Grossenburg Memorial, Winner;
- Thersia Cox, Emma Burnham Public Library, Frederick;
- Paige German, Alcester Community Library, Alcester;
- Sarah Myers, Custer County Library, Custer;
- Natasha Noethlich, Doland Community Library, Doland; and
- Cassandra Rodgers, Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library

#### **Topics Covered:**

We heard from professionals in a variety of subjects on library administration & advocacy:

- Workplace Wellness & Safety
- Grant writing
- Policies
- Collection Management
- Copyright law
- Library Accreditation

#### **Changes that we instituted this year:**

- We began a Mentor/Mentee program, where we assign a student that has been in the program for one or more years as a mentor for a student who is brand new to the program.
- We officially transitioned from a 4-year program to a 3-year program.

#### **Comments from Exit:**

Positive improvements from previous years and other notable comments:



- Assigning freshman to a senior mentor.
- Giving us time to pack our things up after the test was helpful.
- The Safety course was very informative and needed.
- The Public Library Trustee Handbook is very much appreciated and useful!
- The guidance on policies is an absolute necessity.

Potential changes for the future/feedback:

- Are the tests an absolute necessity to this experience? What would be alternative options in gauging growth and knowledge from this course?
  - Sharing is a big part of Institute. However, certain engagement from participants within the classroom setting may need a limit in order to allow the presenter ample time for their material.
1. "The guidance and support from the SD State Library and its leadership is wonderful! George, Brenda, and JoAnne: THANK YOU! There is a lot to know in properly leading a library. Institute has provided the tools for me to do this more successfully."
  2. "I really enjoyed all the speakers, but most importantly I learned a lot of new things that I am going to be taking to my trustees and employees to make our library better."
  3. "The information was outstanding, but at times overwhelming for our small library. I love to have in- person people but totally understand some Zoom meetings are necessary. I thought the information would be very dry but was pleasantly surprised at how interesting it was. Thank you to everyone that did the hours of planning to pull off this awesome experience."
  4. "The classes were very informative and just the right length. I would like to see Library Institute offered virtually. This could possibly help smaller libraries to be able to send candidates. If it would have been offered virtually I could have had my Assistant Director attend along with me."
  5. "The education received is a given, but the connections you make are invaluable."
  6. "As an extreme newbie, I found both the networking, sharing and presentations to all be extremely helpful."