

EXCITE! 2024 STATS & FEEDBACK

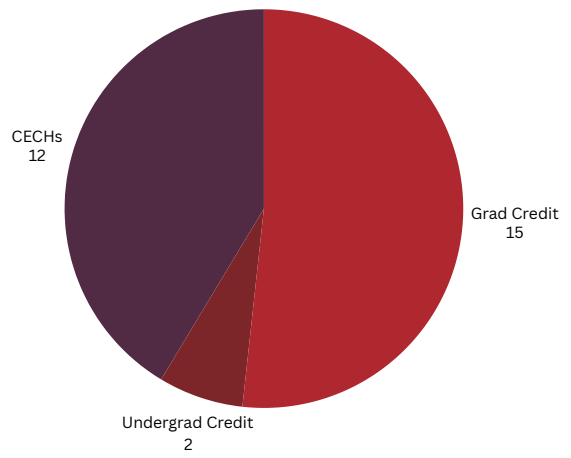


Creating an Impactful School Library

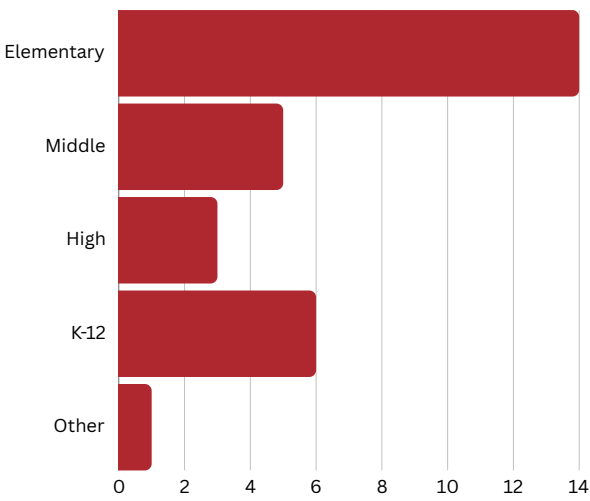


29 Total Students

18 Certified Teacher Librarians
8 Certified Teachers as Librarians
3 Paraprofessionals as Librarians



Grade Levels Represented



Districts Represented

15

Aberdeen, Burke, Faulkton, Menno, Milbank, Mobridge-Pollock, Pierre, Rapid City, Redfield, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, St. Joseph's Indian School, Vermillion, Watertown, Winner

100%

Strongly Agree/Agree That They:

Learned something by participating in the training.

Feel more confident about what they learned.

Intend to apply what they learned.

Recognize that what they learned will improve services in their library/classroom/school.

What they like best about ExCITE!

“I love the intentionality - every lesson had a take-away that will make me better at my job! I also love being able to collaborate and share ideas with others... we all do great things and it's fun to get ideas that we can implement as well!”

“Learning about so many things that I can use to enhance and improve my library and meeting other librarians.”

“This course was well put together. I learned about so many things that I want to implement in my library. I just need to think about starting slow, as there was so much good information. Thank you for this wonderful class and all the time you dedicate to helping us librarians out.”

“The best part was the fact that every module was valuable to me as a school librarian. I like the flexibility for projects so that none of them are just busy work and can actually be used in the future.”



Feedback

“As always, I loved this class. It's just the right amount of work, includes a variety of tools that I learned to use and can transfer to my own teaching, and is all 100% relevant to my job as a school librarian.”

“Scottie does such a great job of making the coursework relevant and useful which I appreciate! I always learn something new that I will be able to implement when I go back to school.”

“This was one of the very best courses I have taken! You have great ideas that are fresh and presented in a way that is not overwhelming! Your comments on assignments are so positive and helpful! It makes me want to do more with the information you give us, but it also makes me feel so good about what I contribute to the class!”



Feedback

- This course was great. I liked the live meet ups. It was great that they were recorded. I was able to make it to one of them, and I found the conversations we had through the apps/websites during the live meet up to be valuable. It gave me ideas for how I could incorporate those technologies into my instruction. I think every module had valuable content.
- I really enjoyed the thoughtful activities that were relevant to my everyday.
- I love these summer library courses offered each year. I love that it is PD specifically designed for the school librarian and easily applied to my job! The online discussions and blogs (which are sometimes in Canva collaborative projects, Wakelets, and other technology resources) always have new ideas for me to think about and try. I felt this year's course dug into A LOT of topics. I would have rather learned in depth about a few of those 9 topics instead of scratching the surface of all of school librarianship. (Kind of like you broke the standards into three summers' worth of courses and took a deep dive into each one).
- I appreciate the flexibility within this course including, but not limited to, the ability to create things that are applicable to each unique situation.
- I really appreciated the amount of choices given for the end of course projects. As I learned new things in the course I made a list of things I would like to implement. The choices allowed me to cross some things off my list, and get a head start on implementing new learning or goals for this school year. I also appreciated the variety of topics that were covered. It was nice to learn new things from so many different aspects of the school library. Thank you for taking time to design a course that provided many different ways to learn and reflect on the learning.
- I love the intentional learning components and took away several ideas to implement in my library this coming year. Scottie does an amazing job of facilitating the work-at-your-own-pace with keeping us on track with a timeline to complete the course. The information was applicable and I created projects that I will actually be able to use - and I love that! It gave me the time to collaborate, learn, and grow as a Librarian
- Going through a section on self-care is more important than before. I believe the increased stress on library staff is hard on the health and mental health of individuals. Going over more in-depth on Policy and Procedure Manuals was good for new and old. Things have changed and so should our policies to meet the times!
- There were so many things learned from this course that can be applied to to my job as a school librarian, such as ideas for improving my library programming, making the physical space of the library more functional and user-friendly for my students, advocating for the library (and myself), collaborating with teachers. It was fantastic.
- I absolutely loved the units on handbooks and Leading from the Library. I never thought about a handbook before but it makes complete sense! I thought the course work was manageable and applicable!
- Scottie did an incredible job putting together this training! It was thoughtful, purposeful, organized and creative! I took pages and pages of notes and have now created several projects that I will definitely be using throughout the school year. This course has made me a more effective librarian and will make my library better for the students at my school.
- Some of the content repeated information, such as one unit had to videos. One was twice as long and expanded on the info of the shorter video. Would have been a better use of time to skip the short video. I feel like I spent way more than 32 hours working on this class.
- I learned so much with this course. Thank you so much for putting this together.
- I benefited from getting different perspectives and ideas on leadership.
- Scottie, as I mentioned in my course reflection, thank you. The resources you provided, as well as your support and critique of my project have been invaluable. I feel better able now to address the school year as the only remaining certified school media specialist left in my district with the Excite! training manual I created. (I really loved learning about desk calendars). I hope that the manual is helpful for the other PSD school library professionals as well. Excite! always gets me excited about the school year, but especially so this year since it was so library skill focused. I am glad that one of our other district staff decided to attend as well.
- I truly don't know how you can improve. I feel like we got so much great information in such a short time and as always I love that it wasn't overwhelming and stressful. I am also so grateful that you understand that our schedules are crazy and make it so flexible for us to participate!
- I learned a lot about networking and building relationships with students and teachers. I learned a lot and will use technology more.
- The modules were very well organized. I liked all the extra resources.
- Great course, all was good!
- No constructive feedback. I felt the course was very good.
- Was going to use Jamboard for my final project however I didn't like that the webiste is going away October 1. I know that I could export my files but not sure how they would convert.
- The course was especially helpful to encourage librarians to have confidence in their roll as school leaders.
- Having an assignment every day, including Saturday and Sunday- was extremely intimidating for a summer class. Maybe extend the class a couple weeks? Just a thought. The library leadership was the perfect end to a wonderful course!
- A lot of the assignments I did not know how to do and it became very ovewhelming. In the syllabus there was no mention of computer prficiency needed to complete this course.
- Some of your links for ALA, they required me to be a member before I could read the article-not the PDFs.
- I enjoyed the class and the flexibility. The meet up dates did not work in my schedule so I appreciated the opportunity to watch them and be able to still be able to participate.

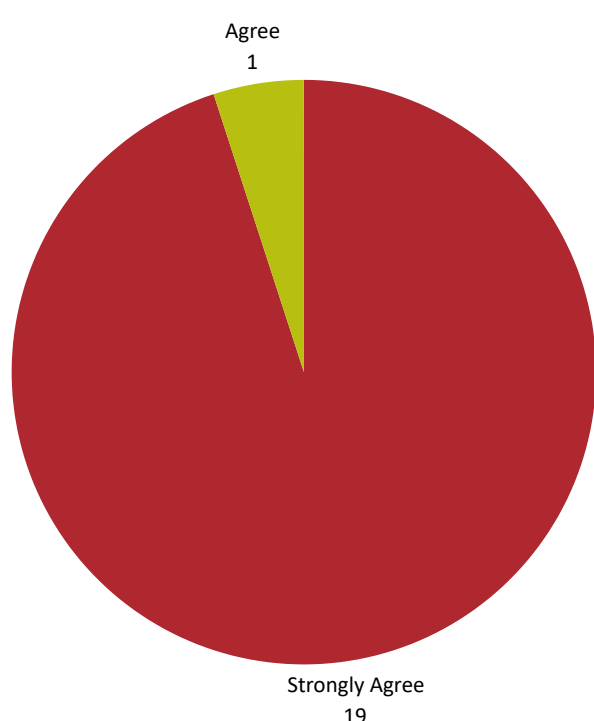
What they like best about ExCITE!

- I like that we had the end of course project with all the choices, and we could pick what we were interested in doing for our project and use the resources you provided to complete the project. It made the class very customizable and easy to relate to our own work because of all the choices.
- The best part was the fact that every module was valuable to me as a school librarian. I like the flexibility and options for projects so that none of them are just busy work and can actually be used in the future. Working at my own pace is also exactly what I need in a class.
- The projects were great for creating actual activities that I will actually be using! I love that! It's so discouraging when you go to trainings that are not relevant. I have been going to Mentor Summer Academy the last couple years, which has keynotes that reinvigorate me. I didn't get to go this year, so this was amazing to have this opportunity to go to the Leadership because of being a part of EXCITE! Thank you for everything!!
- There is no way I could select one best part. I love the ready-to-use resources that were provided.
- The best part of the course was getting together at the Excite Retreat! We got to meet each other in person and learn so much more! I loved it!
- Oddly, for me, the best part of this course was forcing myself to dive into how to create things on Canva. There were multiple assignments that required creating content of one variety or another and I loved allowing myself to struggle through a new technology medium that I was too intimidated by before. I didn't feel like I had the time to trial and error in the fast-pasted hustle and bustle of the school year. This summer course allowed me to slow down and try it out!
- I love how authentic and relatable Scottie is as an instructor.
- I really enjoyed the live meetings and presentations. I always appreciate hearing from you and from other librarians in the field. It is nice to gather new ideas or be affirmed in what you are already doing.
- I love the intentionality - every lesson had a take-away that will make me better at my job! I also love being able to collaborate and share ideas with others... we all do great things and it's fun to get ideas that we can implement as well!
- Updated information in what should be in manuals. Never thought about behavior for a policy. Never thought about putting together a calendar of what I do daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly. Also never thought about putting together my own statistics to see where and how I can improve. Best part might very well be getting to know other librarians in the state and working with them.
- Learning about so many things that I can use to enhance and improve my library and meeting other librarians to connect with.
- Great content!! Some was just refreshers, but a lot of it was new to me. Made me work on projects that I had been putting off.
- All of Scottie's classes make me think about how to improve myself and my library. This one has caused me to rethink about how I can promote my library.
- Creating a handbook for the project.
- The best part about the course was the retreat in Pierre. I loved the in-person training, the activities, and the interaction with the other librarians. The second best part is the practical projects that I completed and will be able to use throughout the year in my library.
- All of it, is that an answer ;) I was dreading this next year. After this course I actually got a little bit of excitement back for me to go in and do what I can do, in the time I have, to make it the best I can, while still taking my mental state into account.
- I ended up with so many directly applicable ideas and skills! I was able to take a leadership role by preparing the library collection policy for HB1197 compliance, and informing admin of the changes. I built some advocacy tools for teachers, and reworked some library policy/ procedures to make classes run more smoothly. Very valuable lessons!
- For me, the chance to work on and create the project was the best part of this course. I love being held accountable for the work and to have had someone to bounce ideas off of. I love my school colleagues, but no one else in my building speaks "library," so I really look forward each year to networking and listening to other librarians.
- I learned to use Canva and also learned to think about makerspace.
- I liked hearing/ reading about what other librarians are doing.
- I always like to reconnect with school librarians around the state.
- Learning about how important advocating is for the library.
- This course was well put together. I learned about so many things that I want to implement in my library. I just need to think about starting slow, as there was so much good information. Thank you for this wonderful class and all the time you dedicate to helping us librarians out.
- All the resources! I feel empowered and inspired to start my second year strong as the librarian.
- Empowerment.
- The best part was the lists of sites and additional material that was listed for our use.
- The part about self care and the simple hands on approaches--yoga, breathing techniques, etc!! Thank you Scottie---always love your classes!
- I like the break down of the lessons, keeping it simple. The resources and how to implement them.

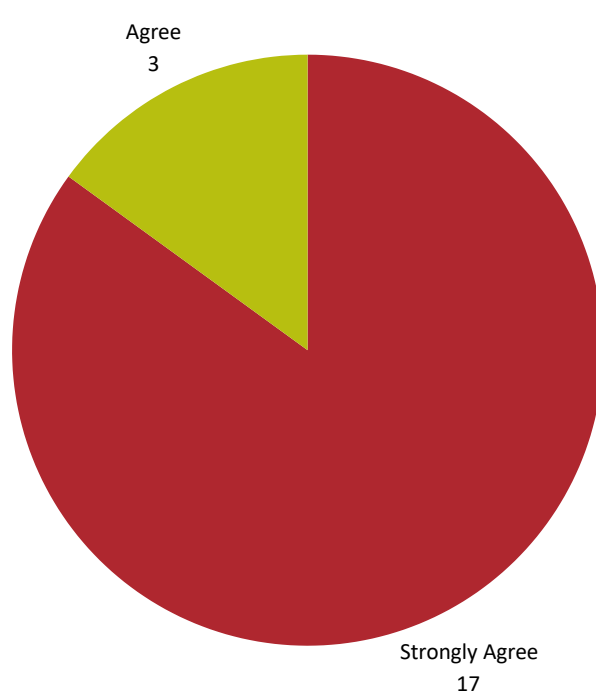
2024 School Librarian Leadership Retreat

Training Feedback

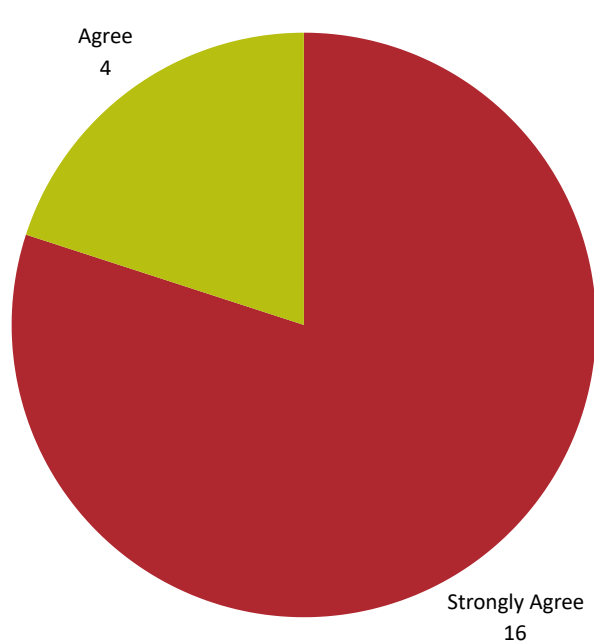
I learned something by participating in this training.



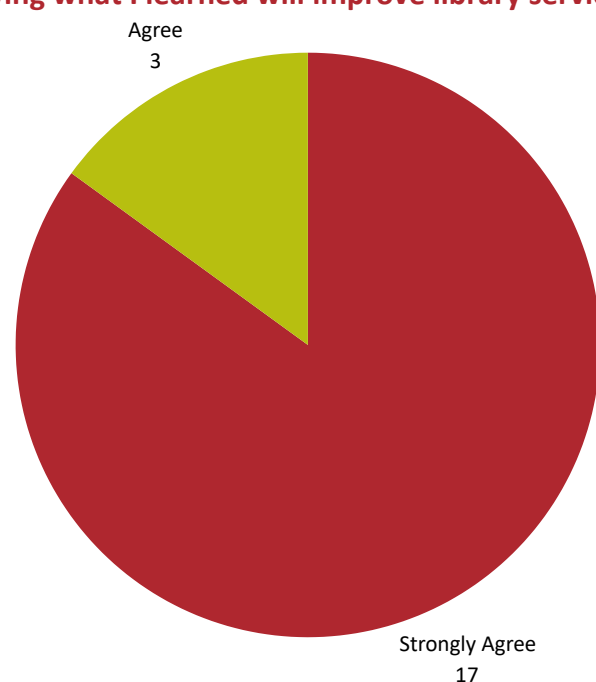
I feel more confident about what I learned.



I intend to apply what I learned.



Applying what I learned will improve library services.



16 ExCITE! Students and 4 Non-ExCITE! students attended.
 Of the 4 non-ExCITE! students, 3 were CTLs and 1 was a Paraprofessional.
 4 more districts were represented:
 Cheyenne Eagle Butte, Pierre, Bison, & Brookings

Feedback

- Great class. Fun to chat with other librarians.
- I think this is the best training I have taken from you. It was basic but also allowed those who might know something about the topic to add and learn as well
- I am so impressed by the purposeful planning of this retreat. Everything was organized, creative and applicable. Interspersing the training with activities like the puzzles, coloring, roller bottles, Inside Out, Knuffle Bunny, etc., etc. were so engaging and fun!! I really appreciate all of your excellent work in teaching and training us! THANK YOU!!!!
- This was great! Every librarian should take this, old or new. So many fabulous ideas!
- This was a great course and I learned SO much information without feeling overwhelmed. Thank you Scottie and all the other professionals who gave presentations!
- I loved the two day experience; as, it was very informative and inspirational. The entire program was very well organized and the presentations were awesome. I am so glad that I attended; as I feel that I have some new ideas for the new school year that I am anxious to implement in my library. Thank you so much for this opportunity.
- I enjoyed everything! I really enjoyed the speakers as well! Everything was relevant.
- Thank you to Jean for the information on Book Resumes. I can't wait to play around with the SLS interactive data website!
- Retreats and in-person courses are always SO beneficial!! The information/ presentations as well as the conversations that happen through the entire time - table conversations, travel time, meals, etc. are SO powerful! Thank you for creating such meaningful courses!
- I have really enjoyed this retreat! I am leaving this retreat more confident in the things that I already and have a few things that I want to implement. I LOVE how applicable each session was and how much information we were given but the timing of it all made it manageable. Wonderful retreat! Thank you!
- I got a lot of good, concise and usable information. I liked that a lot of the presentations had links to resources and examples/ samples for when I go to do the work on my own. Thanks for the vegetarian food options. Greatly appreciated. I would have liked name tags. I know it's a bit old fashioned, but it visual reminders are very helpful for me! I recognize many of the faces, but can't always get the names.

Feedback (cont.)

- Great food! So organized and great pacing! Good variety of activities. Could add concrete plans or goals at the end.
- I loved the speakers, especially Jean's keynote speech. Very motivational! I also appreciated the information on HB 1197. I will share it with my superintendent. I would love to have some more information provided about the upcoming book ratings bill that George Seamon mentioned today. I would like to know if it does pass how the SDSL plans to help school libraries implement/address it. Attending your trainings is always like drinking from a fire hydrant... and I also realize just how thirsty I was. I needed to learn about the HB 1197. I liked the small groups where people were sharing their projects.
- I loved this retreat! I feel so much more confident about my role as librarian. Thank you for the breathing and stretching techniques!
- I found learning about certain policies interesting. I was completely unaware of these policies and now I know a little more. I also now have courage to remove some books in my library that I feel are questionable. I also feel more accepting of graphic novels now. I knew they were good for engagement, but now I have a few other reasons they are great books for kids.
- It was great to see other people's projects and get ideas for my own library. I loved the passive choices and can easily implement that into my program. I liked getting all the different resources from the slides. Thanks for a great class!
- The food was the best! But if you are talking topic, I loved Jean's keynote speech. It made me laugh and cry. I felt like we shared some of the same issues but yet she shared what she has been through.
- All of the above! Hearing practical tips from other librarians.
- Learning from others.
- Connecting with other librarians and meeting Scottie in person.
- Collaborating with others. The hands on with the stress management-coloring, breathing, yoga, etc.
- The best part was meeting other school librarians and paras in the library and learning from them, hearing that they do have some of the same issues that I do, and getting ideas from them for things to use in the library.
- Listening to Scottie Bruch and the other speakers to gain new ideas and valuable knowledge. The additional activities were, also, very enjoyable-- especially working with others on the puzzle project.
- This was great! I learned so many things that I intend to implement! I have enjoyed both the EXCITE! and this leadership training. I especially enjoyed that it was not centered around STEAM since that has been the movement as of late to be all about STEAM and very little about books and Libraries!
- Getting to meet other librarians in the state!
- Talking in groups, the variety of speakers, and all the resources that you collected for us on the resources page.
- Relationships and conversations that share ideas!
- Information about HB1197 on what may qualify was awesome! Love the Spiderweb activity and the yoga for stress relief. The ability to ask questions of others during meals and to share our projects for feedback and thoughts was awesome.
- The best part has been all of the ideas that I am taking back to my library.
- I liked vibing with my tribe in our library shirts. Whoop!! I enjoy learning by doing. The Choice Boards, puzzle making, yoga and Knuffle Bunny maze were all fun and useful. I especially liked hearing other librarians working together on puzzles (strategies and encouragement all around.)
- For me the best part of the training was having the chance to meet with colleagues in person. It is always so energizing for me to see and interact with fellow school library professionals in real time. Thank you for coordinating it and arranging for all the speakers and good food. :)
- The best part was that it was just for librarians. I appreciate training that I can apply immediately or pretty soon in my planning.
- The resources and collaboration.
- I enjoyed collaborating with other librarians, getting ideas and sharing resources. But honestly the thing I loved the most and will implement on day one of this school year, is the Library Relaxation menu. Up until this retreat I didn't know how to promote some of the activities I have access too. A relaxation menu is perfect. And I came away with several other ideas for the menu as well. I also learned about SWANK and have a good argument as to why they need to be using it when they stream movies.



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