

A Message from the President: Pathways to Leadership

This issue of *PNLA Quarterly* is about leadership, an important topic within librarianship. Recognizing and cultivating leadership within libraries is what will continue to make our profession relevant and innovative to the communities we serve.

Leadership is a journey, not a destination. As with most journeys, it is not a straightforward path to develop the skills and capacity for leadership. Instead, it is often filled with twists, turns, and setbacks. These are what make up the experiences that help us define the type of leaders we are to become. On this leadership journey we also bring others along that share and shape the direction of our continuously evolving leadership abilities. How we treat and learn from those we bring along on our leadership journey are perhaps what ultimately define our style of leadership.

An ongoing priority for PNLA has been to assist in developing library leaders in the Pacific Northwest. This can be most exemplified by the leadership institute PNLA Leads which has contributed to the leadership development of many librarians in the Northwest. Leads is one of the crown jewels of PNLA and I have been continually impressed with every librarian that I have encountered who went through the program. PNLA is committed to renewing and reimagining Leads to continue transforming librarians in the 21st century.

Additionally, PNLA is sponsoring the PNLA President's Program: Pathways to Leadership at member regional conferences in Alaska, Alberta, Montana, and Oregon. This program session asks participants to articulate and share their library leadership journey using story image prompts. In sharing our library leadership stories with others, we learn to better identify the experiences that make us not just library leaders, but better librarians. This program was developed with PNLA members Bette Ammon (Coeur d'Alene Public Library, Idaho) and Erin Downey (Boise School District, Idaho). The Pathways to Leadership program was originally given at the Idaho Library Association conference and most recently at the 2017 PNLA conference in Post Falls, Idaho. I am excited to be sharing it further with PNLA.

I am of the mind that we are all library leaders in ways both small and large. We all contribute to making libraries better and show leadership every day in the ways we solve problems, provide access to resources, and treat others. As you read this *PNLA Quarterly* issue, ask yourself: What twists and turns have made up your library leadership experience? What leadership mile markers have you left for others to follow? And finally, how do we make it better or easier for others to follow, learn, and grow from our own pathway of leadership?

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