

SDSL's Cornerstone Newsletter

South Dakota State Library's e-newsletter

August 31, 2023

Branch Out Mini-Conference Offers Networking, Career Development Opportunities

On Aug. 16, the South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) kicked off its 2023 Branch Out mini-conference series in Pierre at the South Dakota State Library. Branch Out is designed for South Dakota library professionals to exchange information for continuing education, to network with one another and, ultimately, to gain tools that enhance career performance in the field of librarianship.



At the Pierre location, eight presenters shared information on library certification, South Dakota State Library's disc cleaning service, programmatic changes and challenges at Potter Community Library, adult program planning tips and ideas from Brookings Public Library, self-care in bad and toxic workplaces, how to utilize South Dakota Accessible Library Services and how to foster cultural learning and understanding in your library. At noon, participants chatted and helped themselves to a buffet-style, fresh taco lunch from Guadalajara, provided by SDLA.

"I'm so thankful that we were able to host the first SDLA Branch Out event since 2019 in Pierre," said Josh Easter, SDLA Support Staff Section Chair, "It is a joy connecting, collaborating and sharing with library staff across the state."

Easter coordinated the Pierre location Branch Out and worked with Melanie Argo of Madison Public Library and Sarah Myers of Custer County Library, whose Branch Out events took place on Aug. 18 and Aug. 23, respectively.

In Madison, four presenters from Madison Community Counseling Services, Brookings Public Library, Briggs Library (SDSU) and Madison Public Library spoke about staff burnout and mental health, adult program planning tips and ideas, time management and mentorship and engagement.

In Custer, four presenters from Custer County Library, Custer School District, Psychological Associates of the Black Hills and Rapid City Public Library spoke about successful programs and tips for program planning, dynamic shelving and collaboration between public schools and libraries, mental health and work-life balance and documenting and tracking adverse incidents.

Among the three Branch Out locations, an estimated 55 people attended and earned continuing education contact hours. Presenter and attendee at the Pierre location. Abby Wright said, "Branch

Out was a lively way to get to know others in the field and gain new perspectives.”



Pierre

Barb N. presents the disc cleaning machine at the South Dakota State Library



Custer

Mark Perrenoud, PhD in Psychology, shared about burnout and life balance.



Madison

Group photo of Branch Out attendees in at Madison Public Library

Welcome New SDSL Staff Member

The South Dakota State Library is pleased to introduce our new Reader Advisor, Abby Wright. She joined the SDSL team in June.

Abby was born and raised in Pierre, then moved to Colorado with her family after her freshman year of high school. In the Denver Metro area, she worked on a national wildlife refuge for five years and wrote for a community magazine for eleven, in part as the regular movie reviewer.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and English with a Writing concentration from Metropolitan State University of Denver in 2015, then worked various jobs before moving to southeast Minnesota in 2018 to write grants and help with economic development in rural communities.

At the end of 2021, Abby moved back to Pierre with her boyfriend, Dave (also a Pierreturn), and their sphynx cats, Dilbert and Mira. In addition to spending time with them, Abby enjoys nature and the arts, especially writing and music.

She looks forward to serving patrons in care facilities and public libraries, in addition to working with library professionals and others across the state.



Abby Wright, Reader Advisor



Abby Wright with brother and parents



Dilbert and Mira, Abby's cats



About SDSL

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The South Dakota State Library provides leadership for innovation and excellence in libraries and services to state government.

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