

WVLS Post-Conference Report
WEMTA Conference : March 3-5, 2024
Laurie A. Ollhoff

1. Please highlight three sessions from the conference.

What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?

a. [How to Deliver Effective and Engaging Professional Development](#)

- i. Presenter: Beth Clarke, Director of Leadership and Learning, CESA 2
- ii. During her [presentation](#), Beth discussed the importance of knowing your audience and putting yourself in their place when setting up training and presentations. She discussed ways in which presentations/programs are set up to make it more meaningful and engaging for program attendees.

b. [Healing Through Self-Compassion & Micro-Resilience Strategies](#)

- i. Presenter: Mandy Froehlich
- ii. During Mandy's presentation she mentioned the acronym [EMBERS](#), which helps an individual focus on Building Resilience and Reigniting Your Fire. She shared a poster that is available on her website. She discussed tracking our emotions to find our triggers, which in turn helps us find ways to better manage the stressors in our lives and rewire our brain.

c. [Building Your Bilingual Collection: Latinx Literature in the Library](#)

- i. Presenter: Jaclyn Vitela Jacqmin, Library Director, Verona Area School District
- ii. Jaclyn shared some wonderful resources with attendees. During the session, Jaclyn had us pair up with other attendees to gain useful knowledge from each other. Jaclyn had a wonderful display of books and materials that allowed for hands-on evaluation. In all my years of teaching and librarianship, I find the hands-on evaluation of the books I am purchasing to be the most beneficial. I know it is time consuming but there is no better way for a person to know if it truly is the right book.

d. [Speed dAlting - Finding the Right AI Tool for You](#)

- i. Presenter: Jake Boll, Curriculum Specialist @CESA 5
- ii. I have been rather reluctant to get involved with the Artificial Intelligence movement. However, Jake did a phenomenal job providing attendees at this [session](#) an opportunity to review and evaluate a few of the AI tools available. Evaluation criteria might include the following:

Privacy (Background Check), Price, First Impressions, and Potential. He stressed that the AI tools can be useful. He made a point to mention that they can be useful for the individual that does not have great deal of time to create a newsletter. The AI features can provide a place for individuals to start when creating newsletters and similar types of PR materials.

2. Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did this experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?

- On Monday, March 4, during the Keynote Speaker Luncheon I had the pleasure of sitting with Andrew BoddySpargo, Dean of Innovation at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Milwaukee. For me the conferences I attend always offer great opportunities for networking that lead to both professional and personal growth. The ideas shared on an individual level at times can be even more beneficial than some of the conference sessions attended. It also creates an awareness of the connections that exist outside our little corner of the world.

3. As a result of attending this conference, what two things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?

a. The knowledge I gained during the session on delivery of professional development not only pertains to staff training, but also highlights the significance of setting up presentations and workshops as a part of patron programming at the library. When setting up the room and materials for various programs, our approach will be more from the attendees' perspective. "What would be important to you if you were attending the session?" "What would make it more meaningful?", "Are you able to see the presentation clearly?", "Are you able to hear the presenter's voice clearly?", and so on. Make the room set-up more intentional and not always the table and chairs classroom style.

b. We have been slowly working on creating a more diverse collection at T.B. Scott Free Library. We recently were approached by several families that have children involved with dual-language instruction. To that end, we have reached out to numerous vendors to accomplish this task. The resources

provided during the "Building Your Bilingual Collection" session will be utilized to continue this project.

4. What kind of support is needed for you to implement these two things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees?
 - a. In order to implement the items listed above, I would certainly need staff buy-in and willingness to go that extra mile to make programming more meaningful to the attendees.
 - b. Perhaps at a system level, training and resources could be made available and presented at staff development functions and meetings.
 - c. It may be necessary for us to reach out to community members for monetary support to fund the development of a more diverse collection.