MILEX Meeting Minutes June 9, 2023

Attendees

Brandy Whitlock	Kelly Banyas	Megan Davis	Mariette Largess
Melissa D'Agostino	Tannaz Moteralli	Renise Johnson	Chris Drolsum
Lisa Sweeney	Mike Kiel	Loretta Spangler	Sarah Gilchrist
Karen Centeno	Emily Holland	Suzanne Taylor	Erika Hodge Harris

MILEX Open House

Presentation:

Culturally responsive teaching as an academic librarian
Erika Hodge Harris, MILS Head librarian at Community College of Baltimore County Essex

The goal of culturally responsive teaching is both engagement with the students and with the librarian to understand the historic and current cultural influences that affect our institutions, personal biases, and our patrons' viewpoints. There are no easy fixes to racism but with cultural humility and engagement we can help our students and faculty to better the learning environments.

Part of this will be to remove jargon from our interactions with students. Students come to us seeking help, we do not want to penalize them for this by using language they do not understand, discrediting their use of language (possibly English is a second or third language for them) and we must endeavor to make the library a safe space where students and their needs are seen and recognized. This can be done through cultural engagement, via radio and news programs focused on other cultures, by practicing active listening when engaging with students, and recognizing the situational aspect of interactions calling for different skills and engagement types. Meet the students where they are.

Gloria Ladson-Billings, 1995 – originator of culturally responsive teaching, proper teaching, respected and made lessons reflective of the culture the students were living in. This allowed students to succeed by making lessons and education relevant to the students.

Background reading: Weinstein, C., Curran, M., & Tomlinson-Clarke, S. (2003). Culturally responsive classroom management: Awareness into action. *Theory Into Practice*, *42*(4), 269–276. http://www.jstor.org/stable/1477388

Business meeting, 12.38 pm

MILEX Elections

Brandy Whitlock reelected to Chair

Loretta S volunteered to be assistant Treasurer, Mike nominated, Lisa Sweeney seconded. Loretta will be the Assistance Treasurer starting 6/9/2023
All other positions were reelected, current officers will remain:
Webmaster, Melissa D'A
Treasurer, Sarah Gilchrist
Secretary, Mariette Largess

Treasurer's Report

MILEX funds in good standing. We have $100.66 in our savings account, Checking $7124.59. We've been paying our speakers and paying for our domain name. Because of our low payouts we've been able to keep our membership fees low, but still give great programing.

Chair's Report

Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD): MILEX was asked to present to CALD. Brandy Whitlock presented on MILEX and what we do, some members of CALD did not realize that MILEX was still active.

Coffee Breaks: 2nd Thursday or Friday Zoom chats for half an hour to get together. All are welcome.

MILEX Award: We've been talking about the possibility of having an award for a little while, a way to encourage scholarship in our future librarians. We're going to go forward with an award rather than a scholarship. An award will be easier to administer.

Review of MILEX Award Draft Documentation

- Goal: Library student wins award and give a presentation to MILEX on the literature review that they would write
  - Topic: hot topic in information literacy, open to student desires to an extent
- Applicants can be:
  - Maryland library school students
  - Currently enrolled in person or online
  - Master's or doctoral
    - Edit needed to the first line to emphasis that it's open to both
- The Award
  - Anticipate we'll get 5-6 yearly applicants
  - Singular award, maybe runners up?
    - Prefer one award at this point
  - Have an evolving award to take in possible changes in the field and our interests
  - Have this ready for 2025 our twentieth anniversary
- Questions needing answer
  - When to collect entries?
    - Spring break/Spring semester follow up

- - - ■ Use MILEX's January meeting to announce it every year
  - ○ How to collect entries?
    - ■ Google forms for applicants to fill out, then
    - ■ Email for entries to be sent into an email to be setup for the award process
  - ○ What will the monetary award be?
    - ■ Keynotes get about $500 dollars, might split for two people depending
    - ■ $500 Dollars for the students
    - ■ We should be able to make back this money in our meetings
      - ● We have data from past but don't think it's predictive of how many will sign up/attend any one meeting
      - ● If we charge for 3 out of 4 meetings, we would be able to cover the award, currently only charging for 2
        - ○ Let's see how this goes and then we can determine if we want to charge for more meetings or raise fees
      - ● If we must adjust things, we can be ready for that, no set award amount
        - ○ $500 for the anniversary award but lower for subsequent awards
  - ○ Who will score?
    - ■ Subgroup will need to be setup, MILEX members volunteer
    - ■ Blind group review, Melissa D'Agostino will scrub personal info and cannot be part of the committee
      - ● Number system of some sort so we can then reconnect information
  - ○ Travel expenses?
    - ■ Yes, we'll cover this within reason
      - ● US residents
  - ○ How will we advertise?
    - ■ How best to advertise to students in schools outside the state but living in MD?
    - ■ Have members to reach out to their alumni groups
    - ■ Reach out to the known online/low residency schools
    - ■ NLRT – ACRL/ALA New librarian roundtable?
    - ■ Gather a list of outreach possibilities well before Spring of 2025

Past conference/meeting feedback

Spring 2023 conference: Lots of great feedback, using what we've learned to help with future planning.
Fall 2022 conference: Hybrid didn't go too well due to technology issues. We'll be better prepared in the future.
Future conferences and meetings: We need to think about paying for space. We haven't had to do that in the past, but many of our universities have changed their building use policies. Public libraries could work for us, but sometimes their policies do not work for us either. So, we may need to rent space in the future and so must consider paying for it in our fees. We will look around to see about fees for possible locations. But what does the group want for conferences?

Meetings people seem to want in person, conferences can be nice to have online to allow for greater participation.

MILEX Research Project

Presented at ACRL about our collaboration and at LOEX to present our research results. Introduction to the MILEX research project and a little about our results, informing MILEXs programming going forward. Data indicated that we should do programming to help with self-reflection, getting external feedback, library centric input, working with challenging colleagues, and motivating leaders.
Traditionally we've focused on professional learnings, but the data has suggested other areas where we can help provide support, so we will look into diversifying our programming.

Planning for 2023-2024 Events

Programming for the next year: Dates, themes, Locations
Yearlong possible themes: Accessibility, Assessments, Teaching to a specific discipline

November half-day workshop, 17th – in person
Have it at UB for the space for teaching instruction with good technology?
People will apply to demo, get feedback for the demos, etc.
Possible theme:
Cultural competency/CRT/CRS
- Presentations on what people are doing
  - Especially interested in demo/practice teaching culturally responsive pedagogy, how to deal with one-shots for this
  - What have you changed in your practice?
- Issues with being at the same point, us representing students in that situation
- Myth of normativity – challenge our assumptions that we all think the same way
Address one of the frames for literacy instruction
- Limited in time and space, so focus in on what we most commonly need
Committee members:
January meeting, 19th, in person and contingency is Zoom
- ALA battle decks -- pivoted from battle decks to just the brainstorming dealing with our most racist/problematic questions
  - Plants in the audience to ask
    - Anonymous form to submit questions beforehand
  - Simulations of the practice/response
  - Brainstorming of responses and methodology through personas
    - Limits due to backgrounds of those involved, but potentially useful
April conference, 19th,
ChatGPT, teaching about algorithms, AI
- Tech and ethics?
- Hear from people teaching how to use it

- Speaker, lessons – MJ Bishop's comments on what ChatGPT is to get everyone on the same page

June meeting, 14th, TBA
July meeting, 12th, TBA

Next Meeting

July 21st 2023, Try for Severna Public Library space again but the location is currently TBA.
- Dr. Partrick Tiedmann will present on Backlash
- Mike is going to help with technology
- Best things we learned at a meeting or conference from the previous year
- Next research project, bring ideas
- Finalize the MILEX 2023/23 Programming