

September 2017

## Greeting from the president of SCLA

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### Recommended Citation

Conger, Amber (2017) "Greeting from the president of SCLA," *South Carolina Libraries*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.

Available at: [https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/scl\\_journal/vol3/iss1/1](https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/scl_journal/vol3/iss1/1)

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## Greeting from the president of SCLA

### Abstract

SCLA's 2017 president, Amber Conger, provides a greeting to SCLA members.

### Keywords

president greeting



# GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT

I've been reflecting recently on speaking up about what's important. I'm not referring to retweeting a tweet or sharing a post on Facebook. Although social media has its place, retweets are rather passive, aren't they? I'm talking about being the first person in the room at a meeting to give feedback when everyone else is reluctant to speak up. I'm talking about telling a colleague something that's necessary yet very difficult for them to hear. I'm talking about sharing with family or friends on an issue where your beliefs differ from theirs. I'm talking about the times when you take one for the team, when you lose sleep, or when your stomach is in knots. Speaking up can sometimes be terrifying and it carries its risks, for certain, but do you consider all you stand to lose when you are silent? Silence is frequently interpreted as agreement or apathy. When you allow silence to represent you, be sure to consider whether the message that you send is the message that you mean.

This year, SCLA continues working incredibly hard to equip our members with the information and tools needed to make our voices heard in our communities, Columbia, Washington, and beyond. Some examples: our Advocacy Committee coordinates SCLA's response and provides our members information on issues that affect South Carolina librarians. SCLA sends an annual delegation to National Library Legislative Day in Washington to visit each SC legislator's office; this year we discussed copyright, federal funding, net neutrality, and more. You'll have the unique opportunity to learn from the best at ALA's Advocacy Bootcamp at SCLA's October conference. We are also grateful to our Awards Committee who has revitalized the awards process to give every library and library staff member the chance to be noticed and to share the good news about the wonderful work you do every day.



Courtesy of Amber Conger

Let's not be quiet, fellow librarians. We're an incredibly intelligent, caring, honest, and altruistic group, the things we stand for are critical to informed and healthy communities, and our messages deserve to be heard.

In closing, I offer my deepest thanks to the editors and contributors to the *South Carolina Libraries* journal for providing this platform for our state's librarians to speak out, and for giving us this opportunity to share with and learn from each other.

All my best,

**Amber Conger**  
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