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Greeting from the president of SCLA

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Greeting from the president of SCLA

Abstract

SCLA's 2018 president, Jimmie Epling, provides a greeting to SCLA members.



GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Libraries Make It Happen!" It is a statement of the power of libraries to shape our communities and state. It can also be an exhortation to the libraries with the addition of a single comma, "Libraries, Make It Happen!" As a profession, we have the ability and power to change lives in our community, no matter whether we are a staff member on the frontline, a middle manager making day to day decisions, or a director extolling a 21st century vision of the library. All we need to do is accept that responsibility and to have the courage to use it.

As President of the South Carolina Library Association (SCLA), it is an honor to be part of an organization made up of hundreds of incredible members who "make it happen" daily in their libraries. They bring new ideas, cutting edge techniques, and a dedication to excellence in service to each individual they meet. It is these individuals who make the impact of South Carolina libraries known in their town, county, school, campus, and state house.

It is a pleasure to share stories of how members of the South Carolina library community, regardless of whether they are a newly minted librarian fresh out of library school or a veteran with many years of experience, created an opportunity for a child to experience the pleasures of reading, a student to pass a course, an unemployed factory worker to get a job, or an educator to publish a ground breaking paper. These uplifting stories tell how SCLA members and library staff from across the state "make it happen" for those we serve. These stories, some of which appear in the pages of South Carolina Libraries, are also wonderful examples of libraries and staff taking the initiative to "make it happen."

"Libraries, Make It Happen!" This is a call to take the initiative that we must take to heart.



Courtesy of Jimmie Epling

Libraries are not only palaces of knowledge bound in books. Technology and a changing society have transformed libraries and libraries are a part of the future. The dedicated and innovative staff of our libraries and the members of SCLA

are constantly looking for ways to make their libraries an integral and relevant part of their community or campus. Having worked in libraries for quite some time, I enjoy being around and working with those who want to push the boundaries of what is possible at their library. We need that spirit of innovation, dare I say entrepreneurship, in our libraries to bring about changes that assure libraries are a part of the future.

Our libraries need not be observers, waiting to be invited to be part of a plan. Libraries can be actors, stepping forward to take a leadership role. We have the resources, tools, training, and the committed staff to be leaders in our community, on campus, and beyond. All that is needed is for us as individuals to step forward to lead our libraries.

What's ahead for SCLA and South Carolina libraries? Great things! Why? Because there are great leaders at all levels in our libraries who have and will step forward to "Make It Happen." I count myself lucky to be part of such a dedicated group of individuals.

-Jimmie

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