

Some 130 trustees and staff from libraries throughout the state attended ACLB's annual conference on the theme "CT Libraries: Challenges and Opportunities." The event took place on Nov. 3 at the University of Hartford.

This year's keynote speaker was State Librarian Kendall Wiggin who discussed fiscal, perceptual and future-oriented challenges facing libraries. Fiscal challenges follow from the anticipated impact of both state and federal budgets. Cuts in state funding can impact federal funding—if the state does not put up its share in a particular area, federal funds will not be forthcoming. He advocated partnerships for resource sharing to offset potential problems.

Perceptual challenges, Mr. Wiggin noted, involve people's notions of what libraries do and the importance of getting the word out about all the ways in which they serve their communities. He spoke of the Measures that Matter initiative, a coordinated approach to using data to show the role and impact of public libraries with the goal of increasing support for them.

In connection with the ongoing role of libraries, the keynoter spoke about the Futures Conference held in September in Atlantic City. There are six generations now living, he said, and all have different expectations of what libraries should offer. The challenge is to pay attention to what is going on around us and respond to trends by providing staff with training, since what worked in the past may not work in the future.

The keynote address was followed by breakout sessions on "Library Trustees, Friends and Directors Working Together," "Cyber Security in Your Library: What You Need to Know" and "CSL Fiber Grants: Funding for Broadband and Internet Access."

The session on cyber security drew a large crowd in view of potentially serious consequences if patrons' security is breached. Dr. Lawrence Snyder, Division Director of Cyber Security, Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Programs at Baypath University, spoke on the physical and logical threats to online security and advocated crime prevention through environmental design, for example, placing the network's infrastructure in locked areas where hackers cannot attach devices that capture personal information. Logical threats can be thwarted by constantly updating all systems.

Special guests at lunch were State Senator and Deputy President Pro Tempore Cathy Osten of Sprague and State Representative Noreen Kojoruda of the 101st District.

The afternoon speaker was Jeanine Esposito of Innovation Builders who spoke on EXCITE, a team-building training program for library staff. EXCITE's goal is to foster grant-funded programs and services responding to community input and needs and leading to cultural change in libraries.

The conference also included the presentation of library trustee awards. This year's recipients were Amy Sanborn, Weston Public Library, exceptional service; Claude Amadeo, Wilton Library Association, outstanding achievement in signature programming; Christina Cumberton, Brookfield Library, outstanding achievement in a building project; Robert Zuliani, Bill Memorial Library, Groton, outstanding library trustee; and Gus Chagares and Joe Janucik, Stratford Library Association, lifetime achievement.