Professional Development Committee Report

NAHSL Annual Meeting

November 8, 2022

# Committee Members:

Gary Atwood (Chair), Rachel Lerner, Martha Meacham, Valori Banfi, Lindsay Barnett, & Eugenia Opuda, (member-at-large unfilled)

# Summary of Activity

The total number of applications for professional development awards continues to be low when compared to the number submitted prior to the pandemic. Informal feedback suggests that many libraries continue to struggle with the aftereffects of the pandemic and lower staffing levels. Doing more with less does not leave a lot of time for people to take advantage of professional development opportunities, even if they are delivered online. We were fortunate, however, to have a large number of applications for the NAHSL Annual Meeting Scholarship, which will hopefully kick off an increase in overall applications next year.

There are two notices for the coming year. First, Michael Mannheim from D’Amour Library at Western New England University will be the new Professional Development chair. Many thanks to Michael for assuming this responsibility.

Second, the Professional Development Committee will undertake a project to rewrite, where appropriate, several of the award descriptions. The current descriptions were written at a time when face to face attendee at professional development events was almost essential and do not reflect the fact that more and more events are delivered online.

The following scholarships were awarded in 2021:

* MLA Annual Meeting Scholarship – 2 awards for $750 each
* Professional Meeting Scholarship – 1 award for $110\*
* NAHSL Annual Meeting Scholarship – 11 awards (9 for $225 each, 2 for $100 each)

*\*The applicant declined to accept the award due to change in circumstances.*

The committee will continue to accept award for the remainder of the calendar year and make a renewed push to encourage people to apply for awards in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary S. Atwood

Chair, Professional Development Committee