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>> DELANDRUS SEALES: All right, we are just post a few minutes after our start time. But thank you all for coming. We're all being welcomed into this wonderful city of New Orleans. The weather has been absolutely gorgeous and beautiful, so I hope you have seen some sunlight beyond these walls of this massive convention center. But thank you for spending at least some of your time with me this afternoon.

My name is Delandrus Seales and I am a librarian in Wilmington, North Carolina. I am a teaching and learning librarian who just started at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. I have experience as a school librarian as well as a branch manager at the public library in Onslow County and also special education teaching in a variety of school districts. But today, you are here because you have some interest in one of our award-winning, one of our award categories.

So if you are coming to learn more about how you can increase DEI in your library, in your collection using the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, then you are indeed in the right place. Okay. I do have, I do have a Bitly at the bottom as well as a QR code in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen and so that will take you to just the presentation. I think I'm going to do something like this, short people problems or short people challenges.

And so you can use that QR code to access the presentation, but you'll also see some more QR codes throughout. So do feel free to have your mobile device handy because we will have some few opportunities to contribute. If you also have a laptop or an iPad, there will also be some opportunities to create some things before you leave if you are able and willing to enjoy some of the time with us at the end.

I am a member of MAT. I'm also a member of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards. We just became a round table thanks to the

wonderful and hardworking efforts of many folks within ALA, the community members, former past presidents of CSK as well as in general the committee itself. And so we were previously just a committee, and we are now at round table status. Okay. So we do have a website. Feel free to browse that. You'll see some more things. You can follow me on Twitter, and the link tree that you see down here in the bottom right has some resources that pertain to this session.

So definitely go ahead and scan this QR code. Of course, you can always take a picture of this. But go ahead and scan this. You'll be using this. It has basic, it's a little nice little toolkit that you'll be able to use in order to further your knowledge of CSK as well as other tools and resources pertaining to increasing DEI. And I'll continue to add to this link tree just because this is a bit of a passion project for me. I'll give everyone a chance to take a look.

If you have not scanned it, hold your pinky out as you're maybe scanning this with your phone so that I know to give you another second or so. If I see a pinky out, then I know you're still taking a picture. It is not the same as a Bitly. This is a toolkit. There's a Padlet with a massive amount of resources on here as well as the presentation session, my own professional website and other tools that I'll be adding. Okay. All right. Giving everyone a few more- if you are coming in to join us on this session, if you have a mobile device, you might want to take it out and take a quick scan of this QR code.

We won't come back to it, but if you just have a moment to do so, and that way we know you're good to go. Again, the presentation is on there, and it's really just a toolkit. The very bottom one has that Padlet with a lot of resources. Okay. I am the publications committee chair for the CSK. And I'm just going to take you through some things in the beginning really to talk about diversity, equity, and inclusion audits. And just give you some background information. Okay.

So, of course, CSK, if you didn't know what that acronym stood for, Correta Scott King. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's wife had a passion project of increasing and encouraging African American authors illustrators, and increasing the literacy and also encouraging African American children to read works by those authors and illustrators. So this book awards committee, which is now round table is imperative in order to foster that importance in our African American community to provide resources and tools, and again, just supporting those authors

and illustrators to continue their works that uplift the black community, support and celebrate our advances and achievements.

And also provide us with some insight, encouragement, strength to persevere through other challenges that we face. So this quote here, "The failure to invest in youth reflects a lack of compassion and a colossal failure of common sense." So this quote is extremely important when it comes to her drive, and when it comes to why we celebrate her work. If we do not focus on improving the literacy of the youth, especially within any community, the black community or not, then that of course, negatively impact our future. And it is only common sense for us to take these steps. We have the means, we have the resources, and the opportunity. So it is a community, it is effort in humanity to invest in the youth for the future. Okay.

So how diverse is your collection right now? So you may have already done some work. There's been a lot of research, especially within the last five years. Lots of tools have come out. We have SLJ articles, you have library journal articles. You have publications through ALA. You're seeing probably posts on social media. Folks are talking about this. Folks really want to make sure that they're doing what they can to better serve their patrons.

Verna Myers, she stated that diversity is being invited to the party, but inclusion is being asked to dance. So, yes, I ask how diverse is your collection. But of course, just having the books that just represent those areas or demographics isn't the same as making sure that your programming and that your communities are coming in and that they just don't see a book on the shelf. It's more about everything else that you're doing so that they feel a part of the library community, which again, is an extension of the community itself.

So, again, it doesn't matter if it's an academic library, if it's a teaching resources library at university, if you're a school library, or a public library, you want to make sure that all of these are in alignment. Okay. Diversity does have many, many definitions, but generally, I mean, you can Webster, you know, Webster's dictionary just says that it's a wide variety of experiences, representations, and points of view. Okay. You hear the word diversity.

A lot of times people think about ethnicity, they think of race just immediately, just the word itself. But it's beyond that. It's more than that. And so, when you're looking at, I'm going

to talk about a few demographics, but the points of view and experiences and the representations are just as important as maybe some of the things that come to mind initially.

When it comes to experiences, you may hear people talking about authenticity and people having their own voice. So when you read a book by maybe a Latin ex-author or even an illustrator who's illustrated the works they particularly are from underrepresented group, could be a marginalized community, and they're writing about their own experiences. Now, they're not saying that those are the experiences of all from that community, but they are writing about their own experiences.

So even the works that you have, it's important to include some different areas or some different categories of those own voices, because another student or a patron could read those and can find insight and guidance from those works. Some of the research that's come out especially if you've heard of windows and mirrors and sliding doors, you may have seen this graphic before. So back in 2018, as you can see, the representation of people of color or underrepresented and marginalized groups, I mean, 1% Native Americans, 5% LatinX, if you look at African American, only 10% of authors and illustrators were depicting those diverse backgrounds. That was 2018.

And so the research has shown that we have seen some growth. But again, this was that point a few years back where it was like, wow, wait a minute. We think we've come very far in society, but we need to be very, very, very ooh, what's the word I want to use? Particular about how we move forward because we're still seeing the deficits when it comes to publication. Okay. So this is when the audits come into play. Okay.

So the audit that people are, you hear about, they're talking about within their libraries is an inventory. Oh my gosh, we have so many inventories as it is. If you're in a school library, you could be doing this on your own. If you're in a public library, at least you have a team, maybe with technical services and so forth. My goodness, there's a ton of work that comes into an inventory. I mean, my school library had about 30,000 pieces, and a public library could have hundreds of thousands of pieces. An academic library, I can't even imagine, especially if there's multiple libraries at that institution.

But this inventory allows you to determine what you need to improve upon in order to ensure that your collection could be diverse, and that there's equitable representation and of

course, the community is included in the representation of that collection. It's all about better serving the patrons in the community or school. Okay. So the ultimate goal is to ensure that you have a wide variety of points of view. You have multiple experiences, maybe even the same experience, but from different points of view. And of course, that you have the representations. Okay. Not all representation is good representation.

So you heard me talk about own voices and experiences. We've seen this before, especially with some other award winners, where we find out that the person, the author, for instance, may have misstated or fabricated in experience or a background, a demographic, and ethnicity in order to publish a book and to sell it has happened and so one of the things that you do have to be careful and cognizant about is just making sure that that is an authentic voice.

And now, I mean, even with social media, you can look at how folks align themselves in the community within the different facets. You can just to check and make sure that person is an authentic voice. Even with the Academy Awards' apology towards the one, oh, gosh, I cannot remember her name off the top of my eye, I apologize. The young lady who stepped in for, ooh red Feather.

>> SASHIN: Read Feather.

>> DELANDRUS SEALES: Thank you, Sashin Red Feather. Yes, they provided an apology to her because there were a lot of attack against her personally when she gave the acceptance speech at the Academy Awards in the 1970s, and she was in there for, oh my gosh, oh my gosh, oh my gosh. Marlon Brando See the Face, right? She was there for Marlon Brando. And we find out just maybe even a few weeks after she passed away, that it is possible that she may not have even been a part of the Native American heritage and culture, and that she may have fabricated that whole background.

But people spent 40, 50 years saying that she was slighted by the academy with her representation of Native American communities. So if you didn't even know that second part, it was horrible the treatment that she had, as she did represent Native American communities, but then 50 years later, have some more backlash, and it has multiple waves. So again, if you're looking for that authentic voice, unfortunately, it may take 50, 60 years. We don't want that. But we have more tools today to find

out if that representation is good representation. Sorry for the sidebar, but we also want to make sure that the patrons see themselves in your collection and in the reading selections that are offered.

Okay. So if you take a look at that Padlet, the Padlet, if you look on that link tree it will be the very last link. We're going to switch to that real quick, and I want you guys to see where those resources are because there's a plethora of resources. You're going to scroll all the way to the right. It'll be this third tab over. When you get to this point where you see DEI audits and inventories, this first column here has several articles in here that gives you the reasoning's and the why's for completing these audits and inventories.

I am a special education teacher as well. Half of my career has been as a special education teacher, and accessibility issues are very, very important to me. So I have some tools here that will help you if you are looking for accessibility, resources, and materials. And I also have those for LGBTQ resources. But there's this column here that says, DEI audit tools. There are some spreadsheets in here before anyone asks.

There are some spreadsheets in here, and you will be able to open these up, and it should automatically make a copy for you so that you can use these tools. There's some different ones. You'll see that I have some tools basically that can be self-audits that students can complete. And I have some other tools that have been shared by others that can be used in their tools. So you'll see those in there. But I just want to make sure you know where they are in case anyone is thinking, let me see a spreadsheet.

Let me see what this looks like. Okay. So we're going to proceed back to the presentation. And you'll have time to look at this Padlet, but there's about 10, 12 columns in there with lots of resources that you'll be able to browse on your own. But yes, we're going to move back to the presentation and continue with that next slide. Thank you so much for your patience, everyone. And now we're going to continue.

So one of the most important things is to know your community that you're about to audit and evaluate. You can use US census data. You can obtain demographics data from your school. If you were at a school library or a university library. You can look at the United States Department of Agriculture. That's another source of data. And you can look at, you know, city or county-

level data. Okay. So you want to learn exactly what is the makeup of your community.

People tend to think about gender, they think about ethnicity, but there's some other areas to think about. Family structure. Do you have foster families? Do you have families with, you know, one parent as a one-parent household? Do you have LGBTQ family members where you may see, you know, some of the different aspects of that community in the family structure? Are there families that are in McKinley veto status where they could be homeless and transient?

So also think about disability status of your patrons. Think about if they are adopted or in foster care. And if there are health concerns that may impact that family or the community. You can also think about mental health. You can think about body image, culture, religion, refugee or immigrant status, as well as the family education background. These are lesser-known demographics that people think about when they think of diversity, but again, they still directly impact the patrons, how they live their lives, and what their needs are.

They are just as important as their gender, their religion, their ethnicity or race, just as important. Mental health status, disability, or I even didn't even put veteran status. Their veteran household, okay? So broaden your mindset when it comes to diversity because you may have five or six that may directly impact your community more so than others that are not just looking at ethnicity. You may be thinking, how does this relate to CSK? Well, it is important to know the backgrounds before you can target and focus on one.

And I want you to be able to use these tools to help you no matter what award-winning or honor book you're looking at, just generally your collection. Okay. So you can use collection development software that you may already have Follet Destiny does have some tools if you are in a school library. But don't forget, you can complete just a sampling as well. You may not be able to audit every piece, but you can take a representative sampling of some different areas of your collection.

You may just want to focus on maybe your picture box if you're in a school library or public library, maybe you want to focus on your biographies. There are some different areas. You can do this in smaller chunks without taking on the big charge of an entire library. Any work you do, even if it's a small sampling, is better than not doing the work at all. Okay? So one of the

things you may look at is your current actual collection, the largest percentage that you may have in a demographic area.

Who does it actually represent? What about that second-largest area? What are you seeing and what you have? Who are you seeing and what you have? And if it's not representative of your actual community, does this actually fit the needs of your community? Okay, so this is when you'd make those decisions to use the data from the audit in order to improve your collection.

Okay. This may be the time to weed your collection. Remove titles that probably are talked about that illicit stereotypes, tropes that are outdated. I'll be honest, I hear about it all the time. Read Across America, there are certain authors who are no longer associated with the National Education Associations Read Across America, but people continue to talk about those authors. And there are a lot of works that are- Speaking of Dr. Seuss, there are a lot of works that do truly display stereotypes, tropes, and outdated things.

And if you are more than welcome to take a look at that, there's NPR articles, there's academic research topics on those things. And you can even see the statement that the NEI released back, and I want to say it was maybe 2010 when they disassociated themselves from Dr. Seuss and the material and moving forward with looking at representing just the literacy community as a whole.

Get your stakeholders involved. Who's helping you fund your books? Unfortunately, they may be people who want to continue stereotypes, tropes, and outdated thoughts. But you can find stakeholders who truly can help you and truly can be a part of the team you need in order to move forward. So you could maybe create some committees. If you are in a school district, you may already have advisory committees, especially as we have book challenges that are continuing to be ongoing.

There may be a process for how you purchase and select titles. That is always the case at a public library or an academic library. But you always want to be ensured that they're involved. If you are looking to do major weeds if you, especially if you find that your collection is very much not representative of your community. You don't just want to remove thou 5,000 books from your collection and your shelves are empty in a certain area, and people are wondering what happened and why.



So keeping those stakeholders involved and keeping those stakeholders informed, you may form some allies as you proceed through this process. You can request a budget. You can request some funds on a short, if you're taking this, these steps as in, maybe I'll work on one through 300s and my nonfiction, and maybe I'll work on my biographies another year. Set a timeline, request a budget and maybe you'll be able to, at least in the short term fund what you need.

You can also accept donations, perhaps depending on your donation policy. You might even be able to fundraise. Schools typically have book fairs, and maybe you might be able to use that to help you add to your collection. Okay. We're going to now proceed now with the CSK Awards. But just remember that you don't have to do this work alone. When I did my collection, I used parent volunteers to help. Let them help you deselect, even if it's removing the labels. I'm sure you already do this, but it is so important now when we are facing challenges that you do have a team with you and people who are well informed that are a part of kind of that advisory team as you move forward with any work that you're doing that could be a part of that DEI realm. Okay.

So now if you would take out your devices, again, I have a QR code here. I want to see what you already know. Let's do some pre-assessments. Okay. Please go ahead and tell me an author or an illustrator. Please tell me an author or an illustrator that you know of who has won an award, not CSK. Who can you think of? Okay. All right. I'm going to go ahead and move forward. The next one, once you enter in, once the next one is that I would like for you to tell me an author who is already a CSK award winner or an honor. So the first one would be an author who is another award winner that's not a CSK award. And the second QR code is for someone who has been an award or award winner or honor for CSK. Okay.

All right. I have a nice word cloud that is populating on my own device here. And I'm going to go ahead and read some of the authors that you have named for the non-CSK Awards. Virginia Hamilton, Mildred Taylor, Sellick, Christopher Myers. Someone started it with Derrick and it makes me think of several authors, but because I like the book owed to wait, well, maybe not. I'll wait. Maybe someone, am I correct it. Jacqueline Woodson, Christina Soontornvat. Someone wrote the author of The Wizard of Oz. We have Matt Di Penia, Mo Williams, Judy Bloom, Adib Karam, Eric Carl, Kate D Camillo, Don Tate, Dr. Seuss, and the author of I Am Four. Okay.

For CSK winners I have eight folks, and you can still keep voting. It's all right to keep taking a look. Ooh, nice job. We have Carl Boston Weatherford. In fact, she's here at our event, we have Christopher Paul Curtis, and Derek Barnes. Thank you. Yes and no, it, to The Crown. I thought someone might have, but I guess you were switching back and forth between the two polls. The author of New Kid. Yes. We have [inaudible 00:28:08] Nelson the, oh, Nina Simone's book. Actually I'm not sure if you mean Carole Boston Weatherford, who she just released the book on Nina Simone. Oh, no, no, no, no. I know you're talking about Christopher Robinson was the illustrator of the book for Nina Simone. Perfect. Of course, I know the illustrator because he's one of my favorite illustrators.

We have Brian Pinkney, Nick Stone, Kwame Alexander, Christopher Paul Curtis yes, Christian Robinson, Jerry Craft, Brian Pinkney, or others. People also mention Christopher Myers and yes, Andrea Davis Pinkney, excellent job. You did so much better than folks at ALA Annual. It was a real struggle, folks, a real struggle. So I am so grateful that you are at least cognizant and aware of those who have won the awards. Yes, please give yourself a round of applause. Paddle in the back. Go get some beignets while you're here in New Orleans, or maybe another beverage. They also have coffee if you were thinking of something else I just talked about Beignets. So yes, thank you so much.

I'm so glad because you can be advocates for this award-winning round table and the works themselves, as well as the work that we are doing. So, oh my gosh, I'm so happy. But again, as I stated earlier, this round table, I had to say committee in the summer, but this round table is honoring the work of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. These awards are given annually, there will be announced at the Youth Media Awards on Monday, again, to honor outstanding African-American authors and illustrators for books for children, young adults and of course as an appreciation to African American culture in history.

So you already knew that knowing some of these awards. But for any folks at home, if they did not know already, we are educating everyone in the work that we do. And this could be a part of the work that you may take on in your community. So these is the award seals. One of the ways to celebrate and show that the books are award winners, of course, is to have these seals on your books.

So when you purchase the seals, you can purchase them from ALA you can, especially if you're at a public library, at academic library, of course, we thank you, because that means you are probably purchasing thousands of them at a time and that work goes right back into the scholarships and the grants. And when we provide the honorariums for the authors, the funds that we take in go right back into doing the work for the committee. Okay, so the John's Steptoe Award, I'm going to go through each of the awards. We have an author and Illustrator award, and this is for a new author who may not get recognized in some of those other award categories.

So when I say that I'm talking about Caldecott, I'm talking about Newberry and there's some others. So this is about celebrating them and ensuring that they are encouraged enough to continue the work. The Virginia Hamilton Award is also an author-illustrator, but this is for someone who's been writing or illustrating for a long time, and to celebrate their achievement over the long haul. Okay? All right.

So I'm going to go through some of the things that I've done in library programming, not just at the public library, but also in the school library to celebrate the CSK Award and honor winners. And so, please, I hope that you take these on as maybe some of the programming offerings that you may do in your own library. You're going to see lots of things, but of course, it's just about giving you ideas. Okay? You already may be thinking of, oh, the audit, all the inventory. Oh my gosh, this is an arduous task. But you know what? We just had Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday almost what two, oh, about a week ago, we, oh, sorry, the 16th.

We have Black History Month coming on, and we're going to talk about things that you can do beyond that because it's more than a day. It is more than a month. Celebrating all people's all the time is so important because we are about making sure the people in your community are represented in your collection. And these are things that you can do at any time to celebrate the people in your community and the patrons who come into your library. But of course, we're geared towards CSK.

So let's talk about expanding your programs and your displays. So one of the things that I took on was really just going through the entire year and thinking about when these opportunities could arise. Okay. So I started here in January with MLK's birthday, but we also just had library day. Why not

take a picture with a nice display of books and posts on social media?

February, Valentine's Day, Black History Month, we have some birthdays in there. Abraham Lincoln's birthday, okay? But we also have Library Lovers Month. We also have World Read Aloud Day, Children's Authors, and Illustrators Week. Okay? Library Lover's Day. Why not find a way to include CSK winners? And you can use this for any award, but why not include CSK winners in that? I mean, what a wonderful love story of Dr. Reverend, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Coretta Scott King. What a wonderful love story. Why not celebrate them? Why not have their books on display?

We have plenty of award winners featuring both of them. Why not World Read Aloud Day? You have guest authors coming in. Why not have them read CSK Authors and Winners? Why not have them participate in those programming when you have authors and Illustrators Week put up a display that features CSK winners during that week? Okay, so let's move on to March. Read across America, right in the beginning, read ebook Day, World Storytelling Day. We have, especially, in the award winners, we even have African Stories and Tales.

Some of them have been even updated over the years. We have lots of things that you can use in order to encourage and support the inclusion of these materials in your programming and even in library and instruction. We have DEI month in April School, National Poetry Month with quite a few works of poetry where we have CSK Honor in Award winner honor and Winners Jazz Appreciation Month. Oh gosh, I always think about Jazzy Miz Mozetta. That is one of my favorites to read to my students. It's a beautiful cover, wonderful illustrations. Okay, National Library Week, we have Celebrate Teen Literature Day. Kwame Alexander, Jason Reynolds come to mind, but there are so many more.

You mentioned Christopher Paul Myers. There's so many authors who you can utilize in a display or programming or in instruction. Get caught reading. Get caught reading some. Jason Alexander right now, get caught- I'm sorry, Jason Reynolds, not Jason Alexander. Jason Reynolds and Kwame Alexander. Get caught reading any authors. Children's Book Week, Audiobook Appreciation month. We get to June and many cities, counties, and states are recognizing Juneteenth which is a wonderful movement.

And if you don't know about Juneteenth, we can talk about that if you would like, but we are all librarians. It's a good opportunity to learn more about that because you can now encourage the knowledge of that with your own community. So we have Book Lovers Day. September we talk about library card Signup Month. We talk about National Literacy Month, International Literacy Day on the eighth. There's comic books. New Kid is a graphic novel, but you know, you know, we can blend the lines a little bit.

We also have Band Books week at the end of the month that goes right into October. Again, wonderful opportunities to include these award winners. Family Literacy Month. You certainly could have programming that supports these African American authors in your community, in your public or school library. We also have Kwanzaa in December.

So it was a nice way for me just to really take account or even an inventory of my own programming and what I can do in some different ways. We focus on Caldecott Newbury. There's so many awards that just get pushed all the time, but there's more than just those two. And so you'll also see that in my Padlet, where I do talk about the other award winners because I do encourage you to do this with any award and not just CSK but of course, find a way just to do something a little different to encourage DEI.

When it comes to music and jazz I'm about to go through some slides pretty quick, and I'm going to show you some titles. Okay? We have Alexis De Vaux for music and jazz. We had some holidays and some celebrations. February is what National Jazz Appreciation, Month Becoming Billie Holiday. We have a wonderful, wonderful title that focuses on Lena Horn again, winners of CSK titles.

We have Rap Tap Tap, we have Duke Ellington. There's the Nina Simonean title, Tracy and Todd. I couldn't remember the author, but the illustrator again, is who came to mind. Little Melba and Her Big Trombone, Jimmy Hendrix. A lot of people don't even realize that we have these titles. Okay? We can obviously expand our collections even if it's digitally and we can include some of these for our community. We see all the authors we've mentioned already. Here's some more that people have may not have thought about.

So Walter Dean Myers is jazz. We have IC rhythm. God Bless the Child. Okay? These are Illustrator honors, okay? We have, oh,

okay, the formatting is not. So we have some more music and jazz Trombone Shorty from right here. Nola, that's right. Trombone Shorty. We have Aretha Franklin's, R-E-S-P-E-C-T. We have Mama Africa. We have all these. These are author and illustrator winners. Josephine Baker, Ray Charles, Duke Ellington. These are all titles that are illustrator winners.

John Steptoe Awards, Jazzy Miz Mozetta, I love, this is one of my favorites. It's just gets you in that jazzy mood. And the kids love it, and they start doing the call and response. But we also have When the Beat Was Born with DJ Cool about the creation of hip-hop. Okay? If you have high school students, if you happen to be school library, even in academic library, maybe you might even have degree programs that focus on hip hop or R&B.

Why not have this in your collection or encourage this in their works? Or if you're high school, middle school, BET awards come out, The Essence Awards. These kids come in talking about who won. People are talking about it. Why not have some of these up? Teach them the history and the background of these instead of just the music that they're listening to. Let's educate as well as support and uplift these communities. Another Jimmy Hendrix title, it's already two. Many folks don't realize we have these titles that are winners.

They are award winners, okay? For teens and young adults. These are all author honors, okay? Take a look. Jason Reynolds is up there, but there's Renee Watson. We've got Jason Reynolds, the Boy in the Black Suit, Angie Thomas. I know that one's been challenged in many places, many places I know, but there are other titles, okay? There's other ways. Even if you may not physically have the book, that doesn't mean you can in- we recommend that book to others. If it has been deselected due to the challenge process, you can still recommend it.

If the families are able to, they can still go to the bookstore to purchase that book. If you already know that those are the patrons who were looking for those reads, long way down, Jason Reynolds. We also had, oh, I already said the King and the Dragonflies. Okay. Author Honors another set of amazing titles. Step Two Awards. Just giving you some ideas, maybe some titles, authors, illustrators you may not have seen. Okay?

And as you can see, even on these pictures, you can see that even when they are on websites for folks to purchase these books, they don't even all have the seals on them when they do print or publish them on the websites. So folks may not even

realize that something was a CSK Award-winning author. They may not read through the summary on Amazon or Good Reads or something. They may not read through and see that it won these awards, but some of them do. As you can see with Copper Sun, it does happen to have the awards.

Poetry. Hope Smith's Keeping the Night Watch, finding Langston, How I Discovered Poetry. The Other Side Words With Wings, that National Poetry Month in April. These are wonderful opportunities support the African-American community, as well as encourage the reading of these CSK titles. Visiting Langston, there's several about Langston and several written by Langston himself. This is a wonderful African-American poetry collection by Ashley Bryant, who did recently pass away.

If there were any members in attendance for our celebration of his life that was back in September. Thank you for attendance, I'm going to put the plug out there. We will have that video up on CSK shortly. But yes, we have plenty of work. These are Illustrator honors. We have Nicki Grimes, we have Illustrator winners. A lot of folks forget about Out of Wonder, Kwame wrote this many years ago, but they forget. But it's a wonderful collection.

And the illustrations are amazing. I am to America, Palm of my heart. These are all opportunities, okay? But some of the programming that I did, even within my own school, I went out and I found out about local poets and slam artists. I was able to have many poetry workshops. I held a poetry slam during National Poetry Month. I even collaborated with the local radio talent in order to bring them in. You can see I got big bees, taken a selfie with some kids, and a poet in Wilmington, North Carolina with some of my students.

Kids loved it. But it's always about doing something new. With science fiction, many people may not even think that there are African American authors and illustrators in the science fiction. Well, we forget it's more than Miles Morales in that version of Spider-Man, we have them here. There are plenty of award authors and authors and illustrator winners as well. Okay? If you want to just celebrate black culture, you can celebrate any culture anytime. You don't have to wait for that month. We got Soul Food Sunday. We got the Stuff of Stars. Lupita Nyong'o Sulwe, the Blacker the Berry, and Mama Africa.

Anytime you can use these titles. Crown, An Ode to The Fresh Cut. Genesis Begins Again, Hand in Hand, Toni Morrison's Remember Heart and Soul.

When it comes to black culture, you can collaborate with the NAACP chapter in your local community. You can partner with black Greek-lettered organizations, the Divine Nine. So I'm talking about the African American sororities and fraternities. They often have student chapters right at your own public universities or private universities, but they also have alumni chapters partner with them.

We had the 100 black men in Wilmington local leaders like the mayor, the city council, county commissioners. I invited them all in police officers, fire firefighters, EMS personnel, physicians, and lawyers. At the UNC Wilmington, we have the Upperman Center which is basically an American I don't want to say society, but African American resource facility, a resource center and so they offer programming throughout the year and other resources.

But I used all of them. I contacted them and collaborated with them for programming throughout the year. These are my go-to folks. Whenever I had something going on, they were just in my email contact lists. And some people may miss the first program, but you know what? Invite them the next time. It may take two or three invitations and they'll come. And it is okay, if you don't look like me, I'm short. I'm sorry you all. Not everybody can be at my level, but at the end of the day, reaching out they want to be invited to these things.

If you were in a school, bring them in. Like I said, for those events, if you have more than just what dads and donuts or like moms and muffins if you're in a school, bring them in, let them be a part of them, even if they don't have children in those schools or in those environments. But again, if you're in a public library university, let them come in. You know, these are taxpayer dollars at work.

If you're public, if you're private, maybe a little different, but I guarantee they would be happy to come in and participate in the programming. So these are just some pictures of my events. I have a county commissioner. I have a physician. I have a county manager on here. I have what's now actually a new department in Wilmington. It's called what oh, wait a minute. What is it? Oh, I just lost it. Not the support. Oh, he used to be with Support the Port, but now we have a whole department now



that's brand new to women's, I apologize. And he created a coloring book that celebrated African Americans in Wilmington, North Carolina in order to educate them about folks who they didn't even know lived in Wilmington, beyond Michael Jordan.

He grew up there, wasn't born there and beyond Metal, Lark, lemon, and some other folks. So he wanted young children, basically kindergarten through sixth grade to not just miss out on learning more about their community, but also to learn about their history and culture. Okay. Celebrating families. There's plenty of books out there, ladies and gentlemen. Ladies and gentlemen, there's plenty of books out there.

There's more than just the Watson to go to Birmingham, okay? Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. One Crazy Summer, Rita Williams-Garcia, When I'm Old With You, Angela Johnson. Justin in the Best Biscuits in the World. I would say that my mama makes them, but anybody can make some wonderful biscuits. It could be Bow Time or Popeye's Time Anywhere, but my goodness, why not? Enjoy one another title?

And of course, Brendan Buckley's Universe. That's also a sci-fi title as well. So that might be something to consider but again, celebrating Families. You can do that anytime we have Grandparents Day in September, why not bring in some grandparents? You have some wonderful titles to include. Okay? I've had Soul Food Sunday up there before, but we've got Last Stop on Market Street celebration of a young man, a young boy with his grandmother. We have Tar Beach, Uncle Jed's Barbershop, just like an ode to the Fresh Cut crown. There's nothing like a young man going through that rite of passage of getting a haircut looking. I hate to be redundant to say the word fresh but looking sharp for folks around him, learning about tipping and learning about caring about himself and the folks he's around. We also have Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters. Thank you OMU, Knock, Knock.

Celebrating families can be done in many different ways. I brought in grandparents. I brought in parents, okay, now, these are folks who were not invited to PTA meetings. They were wanting to volunteer within my school which was predominantly Caucasian American. We had less than 5% of the population who were of other backgrounds, but it didn't matter. They were trying to come in.

My library doors were always open. And as they continued to come in the library and they were seeing more, the students got to

know them by name and they started calling them grandpa too, and uncle too. And they would eat lunch with the kids after enjoying a wonderful reading class. See them in the playground, see them at recess. And they became a part of our Huntington family as well.

You can celebrate the arts. Misty Copeland's Firebird. I actually even have- This was actually donated to me by the Library of Congress Department of the Print for the Blind. And do you think about some different ways you can have these books available for your patrons? This is actually in Braille, and you're at the end of the presentation you are welcome to come up because you will actually be able to see how they actually do make these books.

I hate to put the plug in here this way. But you also may have accessible resources through your state archives and state library, but as well as the Library of Congress who can get these books to you in other formats and means like talking books and other avenues that are at no cost or free that can either go to the home or to you in the library.

We have Radiant Child for the Arts, many biographies available more than just Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, the people that you hear thrown out every time for that one month in our calendar of the year but there are others out there. Gwendolyn Brooks, we have the first one of the early well, one of the first deputy US Marshalls. We have Bass Reeves George Washington cover. But in poems, we have women freedom fighters who are African American, who are talked about and represented and Let It Shine. Black Hands White Sails, Early Wailers, okay, that people don't think about.

People they don't realize that they are African American wailers in the early, well late 1800s and early 1900s. But you can have more than just the usual five or 10 folks represented when you do biographies. But there's nothing wrong with having the classics but represented in a wonderful way. They are here in CSK winners. They are more than enough titles available that I'm sure you all have. One that I always forget about is Dave the Potter. But yes, there are plenty of titles that you can have in your libraries, putting them on an end cap, a display, easily accessible.

I'm constantly having to replace them. Folks are like, oh, you know, do we have any more? And I'll look up and it'll be bare. And just because when they're seen people, they realize they're

there, especially in the school. And it's just like candy. They have to have them. If you don't see your books moving, you know what we do? We just replace them, move them around, find another place, especially in a public or academic library.

Folks don't realize sometimes they can actually take the books from the displays. They know that they look wonderful and they look nice. Put some grab me signs, learn about me, check me out. It's great for Valentine's Day. And you can maybe even find a way to have your displays move. Sports Kwame Alexander's Crossover Sticks Malone. That's wonderful title. Muhammad Ali, You Have the Negro Leagues, Jackie Robinson. Great opportunities to learn more about athletes.

When it comes to folk tales. You have plenty. Okay? You have one great options. People forget about them. I keep saying that time and time again, but there are many times throughout the year when you can utilize these. I know some folks might even just print those off and throw them in an acrylic. You can use that. Some of the slides in your, even as a little mini poster, that's okay. It's already done, recreate the will. You have the PowerPoint slides.

But you always consider during the month of February, that's coming up in African American read-in having your displays. I can't actually click on that, but you will be able to when you look at the presentation at home but having the books out and ready display for your readers to come in to be able to take a look at your selections and quickly be able to go out to the classroom.

This is that time when you can utilize those resources in your own community, whether it's the NAACP or black Greek-lettered organizations, other members who are firefighters, police officers, and other government workers. It's a great time to bring them in the month of February. You could choose one day. You could choose one day a week. You can have them come into a specific classes, have them on your campus.

UNC Wilmington actually goes out to the community and read in multiple places. They also have a lab school where they read inside the school as well. It is a middle school, but anyone can have an African American read in you if you just Google. There's even a website devoted to just that. And you can see the events around the country. And you can get some ideas perhaps on how you might be able to include this in your programming during the month of February.

But again, you can do this any time of the year. You can have an African-American read-in for Juneteenth, but you can also have it in May. You can have it in August. You can have it in December, any time of the year, you can invite folks in to read these wonderful CSK winners. Oh, it's actually going to play. Okay. So this was just one of my tables of displays, and I had folks ready to pick them up, had hashtags out, people took selfies. You saw the pictures before where, you know, the leaders were happy to move forward and do just that.

And I love to celebrate them at the very end, putting together a nice compilation video for folks to see themselves in the pictures that were taken while they read to the students. Okay. So you're going to take a look here and you can see all of the titles that I had out. At this point, I wish I had some jazz music playing right about now. Just to kind of give us the ambiance a little bit.

But again, you'll be able to see all of us, and you can get more of an idea, even contacting your local news to come in, whether it's TV or print, to come in and get some pictures. During these events, what a wonderful way to promote your library, your programming, and your marketing because again, it's not done everywhere. What if you really are the only school or public library branch or location in your community to do this? Why not? Why not promote your own self? Give your own self a pat on the back for the wonderful work that you are doing to promote increasing DEI in your collection using CSK winners. Okay. I won't let it play, but I will move on to the next slide.

Okay. Black History Month and Juneteenth, or just some other ways we've talked about it. Just keep them in mind. That's Black History Month this next month, but just a few months away will be Juneteenth. I hope that you were able to do the programming beyond that, but it is okay if you are not. You know, if you just want to start with a few times throughout the year and work through that, as opposed to trying to do something every month, that is okay. It's okay to start small. Anything you're doing is better than nothing at all. Okay.

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association does have a page that can provide you with some details and information about including programming during that month, okay? So you'll see that in the presentation, but at any time that you're using CSK winners, please use hashtags and promote them on social media. You can, whether it's on Twitter or Instagram, TikTok,

everybody is TikToking. But we need diverse books and diversity matters. They're all good hashtags to use. But again, think about some accessible options for your patrons. The National Library Service through the Library of Congress has a great set of resources ready to go out.

Like I said, they are able to mail these to your library or get them in the hands of patrons at their homes without any cost to ensure that they're able to get accessible titles. So it could be audio, it could be audiobooks, it could be books in braille. It could be talking books. It is at no cost. I mean, it's right there. Why not? And you're welcome to come up here and take a look. Here's some more display options that you may consider.

Okay. Now that we're getting towards the end, I just want to see, you know, we did go through quite a few posters. You knew a lot, quite a bit. But if I may ask you to go ahead and scan this QR code this time, if you would tell me a CSK Award winner, honor, author, illustrator, or maybe even a title that you did not know of before, tell me someone new. Like I said, it could be a title or maybe it might be a subject area. Write a subject. Maybe there was someone you didn't even know there were books who were winners on already.

Again, this time you were telling me someone or a topic that you did not know about before related to CSK. And it is okay if that author, illustrator, title, or subject theory was mentioned before because again, this is new to you. There's good ones. All right. Keep typing them in. I have Kadir Nelson, Rita Williams-Garcia. Many elementary schools and middle schools have her titles in public libraries have her titles on the shelves, but just don't realize that she was a CSK award-winning author, Words with Wings.

We have the Parker Inheritance. I can't believe how long that book has actually been out, but it's one that's forgotten when people read the Watsons Go to Birmingham. We have other options available. We have when the Beat was born. That's right, guys, when it's hip hop and R&B, anyone interested in DJs or have those programs related to music in your schools. By all means, that is a wonderful title to consider. And those sci-fi titles, that's right.

There are sci-fi authors and illustrators out there. There are comics and graphic novels. Oh, yes, someone picked one about the Teacher's March. Oh, don't forget, we also have John Lewis's title as well. I didn't put him up there just because a lot of

folks keep that one in mind. But there are some good ones out there. I know you saw Soul Food Sunday up there several times but there are plenty of options available. I'm going to go ahead and move us on. But remember that if you don't use your power for positive change, you are indeed a part of the problem, so your superpower that I'm woo.

Giving you right now is the power to increase DEI using CSK author award winners and honors. So you can take these back home with you, you can talk to folks who could be those stakeholders so that you can take the steps necessary to maybe add programming, do an inventory and audit your libraries. But there's many tools out there. If you're interested in joining CSK, you can as well. Oh, yes, I will say you can still- I do support still joining EMIERT.

I have to admit, we are no longer under EMIERT but I still support folks. Please do. It's doing the work for that round table to support diversity. And then also you can consider volunteering on a committee, please, whether it's EMIERT or CSK, it is an option. And the round table, when you do your renewal, you'll now see that it is a completely separate block. It used to be join EMIERT and then you could join CSK. Now, it is just joining CSK, but of course, I encourage folks to also join EMIERT. Okay, so I do have- let's see. Oh, I didn't, well, let's see.

I will see who first raises their hand. And let's see. I can do three items that I can give away that support CSK. I have a CSK bag, as you can see pictured there. I have a water bottle, and I also have a guide for the winners that we just had for last year, this year has not been announced even. I don't know who the winners are just yet. But I have a tote bag, a water bottle, and a guidebook. So it is going to be tough, but I will look around the room and I will ask for someone to, let's see. We'll do title.

I'll ask someone to name a title, and I'm going to look at the first hand that shoots up. It's going to be tough. Okay, so like, for someone, or tell me a title that is a CS- I guess I have to do the, I'll count down, and when I say go, I want the hands raised. So when I say 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, go, then hands will go up just to give you some thinking time. So I'm looking for a title for a CSK Award Winning book. Could be an honor book as well. 5, 4, 3, 2. You'll jump up and raise your hand. One, go.

>> SPEAKER:[inaudible 01:03:36].

>> DELANDRUS SEALES: Okay, I think so, because one hand was up just slightly before I said go.

>> SPEAKER [inaudible 01:03:47].

>> DELANDRUS SEALES: And was that a honor or a winner? Okay. Okay. So I'm going to count down and we're going to do go again. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, go. Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

>> SPEAKER [inaudible 01:04:07].

>> DELANDRUS SEALES: Yes, ma'am. All right. Would you like a bag, a water bottle, or a guidebook? All right. She'll have a bag. All right. Thank you. All right. She did the full book title and author and the award winner. This time, let's see if you can just give me an author. We'll do the same thing. So at the very end, you'll be able to come up. So, I'll do the same thing. If you can give me the author's name for a CSK Award Winning author. Oh we the title of the book, again, the Parker Inheritance. The Parker Inheritance was the winner of the title. I want to make sure I repeat that for folks at home. The Parker Inheritance was the title that has won the CSK bag. So we're being recorded. So for the author, okay, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, go. Yes, ma'am.

>> SPEAKER: Kwame Alexander.

>> DELANDRUS SEALES: Kwame Alexander is the winner. Yes, he actually is a winner. He actually has honor books too. Yes, absolutely. Many of his books have won. Would you like a water bottle or a guidebook? All right, perfect. And now for an illustrator, an illustrator who is a winner or honor will do the same thing. CSK winning illustrator 4, 3 for that illustrator, 2, 1. Yes, ma'am.

>> SPEAKER: Kadir Nelson.

>> DELANDRUS SEALES: Yes. Kadir Nelson. All righty. So you have the water bottle, and you can, oh, Kadir Nelson was the illustrator. So by all means, please take a look at any of the things that are in this presentation. There's a lot of things in

that Padlet. And you can find me on Twitter, feel free to add me. I'm in the Lib Learn X app. But there are some things there a lot of resources in that Padlet. If you have any questions about any of those things in that Padlet, by all means, please feel free to reach out to me.

I have academic resources in there, peer-reviewed resources, and scholarly articles. There are interviews with authors, illustrators. In fact, may if we could switch over to that Padlet, and let's scroll all the way to the left to take a look at those resources. I think it would be just helpful for anyone who happened to come in just a little bit later. And then at the end, we'll make sure this is up again, but I just want you to see everything that's in there on that Padlet. So, ooh, this will be the Padlet that's coming up. We were scrolled all the way to the right. We're going to scroll to the left.

Perfect. Yes. So we're going to scroll all the way to the left on this and you'll be able to see there's a lot on there. Lots of articles from lots of different sources, primary resources, posters, games in there to teach history, instructional use videos, lesson planning templates, other DEI titles that you can use if you are in a university, some teacher preparation materials, maybe if you have a mentee if you happen to be in a school library.

But as always, the rationale for increasing DEI in children's books. And you can see more of the history, of course, the articles in there that go all the way back, even to the 1960s, and '70s with windows mirrors, and sliding doors, and even her revisit to that not that long ago. So lots of tools and resources in here that can help you in your mission, because of course, you have that superpower that I told you about.

Oh, it's so cool. And I want to see the amazing things that you do. If you are on social media, by all means, use those hashtags. Let me know. I'd love to re-share that on my social media, the things that you have done. So please, please, please take a look at that. Take a look at these resources. If you have programming going on, tag me, let me know. I'd love to re-share it back out. And we're going to now go back to the last slides of the presentation. And that way you guys will be able to get that link tree.

This is a passion project for me, so I'm continuing my work and more resources will be added. And of course, if you want



something, if you find something that's included, let's have this be a wonderful extended community of encouraging the support and African American community with literature in the works and your pro programming back at home.

Let me know, let's see what we can add to this Padlet. I'd love for it to continue beyond today's work and what's currently in that Padlet. So thank you so much. I'm happy if you have any questions. I am here. And I'm also on Twitter. My email's on there. And I thank you for your attendance and your time. I do hope you have something to go back to your home libraries in order to utilize in just a few short days. Okay. Again, my name is Delandrus Seales. I'm a teaching and learning librarian at UNCW, our University of North Carolina at Wilmington. And I am happy that you're joining me in the pledge to support DEI using CSK titles. Thank you for your time, ladies and gentlemen. Okay. All right.