

MEMBER PROFILE

VANTAGE

POINT

- » STATE LIBRARIAN
- » CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
- » HARTFORD, CT

ADVICE TO YOUR 20-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Be thoughtful about your words, your money, and your energy. For all three, there is often a difference between what you want and what you need, and maintaining a constructive balance underpins so much of our personal and professional lives.

WHAT MADE YOU FOLLOW THE CAREER PATH YOU ARE ON?

Ironically, I made so many decisions about my career based on what I thought I wouldn't be good at or enjoy. I didn't become an English teacher because I was shy about sharing my ideas and opinions. I didn't practice law because I thought I wouldn't like having to be the center of a room's attention. But as a law librarian, I not only learned how to do those things, but that I did them well. At the State Library, I have the privilege of speaking and acting for my agency in very public settings and seeing the good it can do.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Getting to say "yes" to the incredible ideas my team comes up with. My job isn't to do all the work of the agency. It's to create opportunities for everyone who works here to do their best work. By library standards, we are a big library, but by state agency standards, we are very small. I am constantly amazed by the grants, programs, and other initiatives we have available, and my goal is to spread that information to everyone I can.

WHAT IS ONE GOAL YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH IN YOUR LIFETIME?

I want to read every Shakespeare play and see them all performed live. Currently, I have read 17 and seen 24 (not necessarily the same ones). I have a spreadsheet and everything!

WHAT'S YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT AND HOW HAS IT SHAPED YOU?

Getting to mentor other librarians. I am lucky to have had some wonderful mentors myself, but I have had to learn a lot on my own too, especially about soft skills. I made a conscious decision to make the time and be available for others looking for help. And along the way, I have learned so much from them too. Mentorship goes both ways.