

Endowment 2020 Full Video

Tue, 12/15 11:00AM 5:55

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

atla, theological, endowment fund, future generations, theological education, community, libraries, grant, librarian, services, professional development, tribe, give, resources, future, advantage, opportunities, celebration, endowment, financial

SPEAKERS

Kelly Campbell



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As we're coming to the close of 2020, I don't think there's anything that 2020 has not demonstrated other than to invest in the future and to have hope for the future. In 2020, we've had financial storms, we've had a pandemic, we've had challenges to higher education and theological education. So I don't think there has been a more appropriate and critical time to give to the endowment fund. People are wanting to seek security and they're wanting to make a difference. And I think by giving to the endowment fund, that is a concrete action that people can take to invest into the future, and to have hope for better times to come. In 2003, when I became a theological librarian, I was looking for a community of learners. I needed to know I was new to the field, I came from a children's library background. And I was wanting to find colleagues and mentors and guides. And so the Atla community has become that for me in my path as a theological librarian. In the Atla, community of learning, I found some experts. One of the first persons who came was Dr. Tim Lincoln, and he helped to do an Atla consultation grant about collection development because I was used to collecting children's books and not theological books. I found resources and professional development, I got involved in the Conference Committee on the Education Committee, and I found a way that I can give back to the community that had given to me, I also found diversity. I love that about Atla that we come from very diverse backgrounds, different denominations, different customs. But we all come together to support theological education and theological libraries, which was important. I found leadership opportunities in the Atla community. Again, I mentioned I served on committees, I got involved, I did presentations, I ended up serving on the board. And so Atla has provided leadership and growth opportunities for me both professionally and personally. And then, most importantly, I found deep and rich friendships, the Atla community has, I found friends that we can share with that we share our personal lives with as well as our professional. And in another way I found my tribe, I did an interview with Daniel Aleshire, who used to be the executive director of ATS. And he mentioned that theological schools and libraries tend to be tribes in so I found my tribe, I found my people in the Atla community. And I'm very grateful for that. And throughout the time that I've been a theological librarian, Atla's services have just been immensely helpful. Of course, there's the database, which we all use, and we're very blessed to have that as a membership association to have the database. That's one of the premieres that is out there for theological and religion. I've taken advantage of the grants, I

love that you could write a paragraph and get a grant, which is not money does not flow from theological schools. And that's been very helpful as well. I mentioned that I did the consultation grant, when I first arrived. And I've actually done a second consultation grant that I think people need to be aware of, and take advantage of, of having someone come and look at our rare book collection and help us decide what to do with that. I've taken advantage of the Theological Libraries Month that started as I become a member of Atla, and has continued on, and I always a la has always had big celebrations. But I was glad that Atla had developed that and created that for our members as well. And then, of course, there's been the tan, those are tangible resources. But then there's intangible resources, the services, the friendships, the professional development, the time together the opportunities. And I think that's the uniqueness of Atla that I've always appreciated. Because Atla makes it easy for us as members to be able to take advantage to have extra resources to have extra opportunities that we don't get a lot of times in our own institutions. And so I'm very appreciative of Atla services and glad to be a member. And I think the best way that Atla can help the future generations is to secure the future and help it weather the financial storms. And that's by the endowment fund. I think that Atla's continually to change and to grow with future generations and future theological librarians. And so the endowment fund is really critical in this year in 2020 and 2021. I know it's been a difficult year and I know that we've had some layoffs and financial challenges, but I was so excited to learn that this is the 75th annual bursary of the association, and that we're nearing the \$1 million mark. I remember a short time ago when we were excited to get to half a million dollars in the endowment. And we're sitting at \$988,000. And so I think it's so close that I want even a small gift, even \$1 would be important this year to help the future generations of theological librarians. And I would hate for us to finish our 75th anniversary celebration and be sitting at \$999, 999 and being \$1, short of reading reaching the 1 million mark. So again, I think the one way that we can make the future generations have the wonderful resources, the services and the fellowship, their professional development, all of that is by giving to the endowment fund.