

President's Letter to the InULA Membership

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Greetings InULA members,

Life has finally segued back to pre-pandemic mode with more and more of our interactions becoming face-to-face rather than being conducted via video platforms. For the first time since 2019, we held our Annual Colloquium in person, and it was great to see so many of you in Indianapolis! The educational programs were diverse and engaging and delved into a range of topics, from a pro-slavery legal education to the discussion of the importance of tenure. During the breaks, we had an opportunity to connect on a personal level. In a world that often emphasizes productivity and work-related achievements, it's easy to overlook the importance and the need for genuine human connection. For me and for many others, our in-person annual colloquiums and holiday luncheons help maintain this connection. Some of us would share personal stories, others would discuss their goals and dreams. We would go into topics as varied as culture, identity, and societal issues. Through these interactions, we learn the value of empathy and active listening, so let us keep this tradition of in-person gathering going!

Now, I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the projects we have been working on to ensure that we continue to advocate for you and for our profession.

As you may recollect, about four years ago, InULA members were given the opportunity to vote on expanding our membership categories to include all library personnel, not just library faculty. That was an opportunity to revitalize our organization and make it more diverse. As you know, diversity and inclusion provide organizations with many benefits, including access to talent and increased engagement. It also encourages innovation, connectivity, and a wider mindset. Now that we are more diverse, our name, Indiana University Librarians Association, does not reflect our constituencies. To address this issue, we conducted a survey where several name options were presented that may more accurately reflect the membership representation of our organization. At this point, it's still very much a work in progress. Please stay tuned for a follow-up survey which will focus on the two most popular names as well as on several deciding factors that serve as obstacles for membership involvement in our organization.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the following: as a professional association, InULA relies on our many amazing members, committee chairs and committee members, who volunteer their time and energy to help our organization work more effectively. It is important for you to know that the Executive Board and our Committees are here to represent you, our constituency. We want you to be stakeholders in everything we do. We want you to know that all the work conducted behind the scenes by the Executive Board and by our committees is done on your behalf, and we would like to do this work with input from the broadest ranges of our membership. Any one of you reading this, who would like to be a part of our organization, please contact me or anyone on the Executive Board to express your interest in our activities. Likewise, if there is anything that is important to you as a member, please communicate it to one of our elected members-at-large, or directly to any officer. In that way, at our next Executive Board meeting, we can raise and hopefully resolve issues that represent your concerns. So, please consider this an appeal for your input. A connected membership is a viable membership!

Larissa Sullivant
InULA President, 2023-2024