

August 2020

Message from Deirdre Brennan, RAILS Executive Director:

Goal Four of the [RAILS Strategic Plan](#) is to *Prepare Libraries for the Future*. This goal focuses on the sustainability of libraries and on supporting and strengthening the vital role libraries play in building a civil and engaged society by upholding core library values. Promoting and fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) ranks high among these values.

RAILS, and all libraries and library-related organizations, have the responsibility to speak out against and work to eliminate systemic racism and bias. This pulse page will provide the latest library-related information on this issue, provide guidance for our member libraries on EDI initiatives and activities, and detail RAILS EDI program/service offerings.

This is a burgeoning effort for RAILS and a major goal for FY 2021. We intend to work with partners and members to get input and assistance in developing and implementing a plan that will assist libraries in EDI work. Please check back often as our programs/services in this area will continue to grow and change to meet the needs of our members and to ensure that we provide the leadership necessary to guarantee the preservation of core library values and the sustainability of all libraries. I welcome your feedback via the Comments section at the bottom of the pulse page, or you can [contact me](#) directly with any ideas on how RAILS can accomplish these goals.