

In this talk, I will focus primarily on what I do to foster connections, establish relationships and build “community” with the students we are privileged to have working at our library. Even before the students are hired to work for us, I set out to make them feel motivated to work by mindfully remembering traits about them that stand out in the pre-hiring form and resume and working in these tidbits of information in my conversations with them. The aim here is to get a sense of each student as a person and to find out where they are “coming from.” This helps them to feel welcomed and acknowledged. Throughout the semester, I invest time in getting to know the students by checking in with them from time to time and enquiring about their general well-being. We have casual conversations about current events that occur both in their life and in the world at large. The EBL hosts a well-attended semester-end shindig twice a year, in November and April, to celebrate the hard work put in by everyone and to honor the graduating students. I check in with graduating students regarding their future plans and we make plans to keep in touch.