

ACRL Delaware Valley Chapter, Spring Program 2018

Power of Partnerships

Session Report

By Jessica Brangiel, Swarthmore College

Building Partnerships around Student Needs

Deborah Gaspar, Director of Public Services at Rowan University, actively seeks out partners within the university by observing what is going in various areas of the university and looking for opportunities for library participation. She began following the work of the New Jersey Affordability Group. Forty-two percent of Rowan students feel financially stressed. Like many students across the country, Rowan students are unable to purchase all of the textbooks that they need. Gaspar saw an opportunity for the library to help.

The library became involved with campus partnerships with financial aid and the bursar's office and one significant outcome is a food pantry on campus. Other areas where where the library has been able to help include an alternative textbook program through textbook reserves, running events on financial literacy for students including money management and budgeting and working with faculty to expand the use of open educational resources on campus.