

My name is Bion Wells and I work at the Pyramid Lake Museum as the Collections Assistant. I was able to attend the Nevada Museum Association's conference in Virginia City as a recipient of the Art Wolf Scholarship for Emerging Museum Professionals, which was great opportunity to learn more about the field and to make new connections.

Being new in a field can be intimidating, but going to the conference helped me see that everyone in the field is still learning and that it is okay to not know everything. Conferences like these bring people in the field together for networking, and shows that even though we all work at different museums with varied collections and missions, we all have relatable problems which we can help each other with. Meeting people from around the state who work in the field brings different perspectives while also opening up connections for projects, collaborations, and help if someone has questions or concerns about problems or roadblocks at their museum. It is essential to make connections in this field so we can reach out to one another and help with any issues that may arise at our museums.

All of the presentations and roundtables at the conference helped me learn more about the wide issues that must be considered at museums. Diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion are all fundamental principles in museums, and the presentations on it helped me see the issues in the museum field and how we can advocate for ourselves and those who visit museums. The presentation about proposals was also informative and I learned how important they are to development, so now I know to prepare one for the next conference I go to.

Anyone who is eligible to apply for the scholarship for this conference should apply in order to further the museum career. It is especially important to go conferences like these in the beginning of someone's career, because it will help build a strong foundation and connections with other professionals and institutions.