

A Conversation with Dr. Kelly Campbell “What does the Atla ...

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SPEAKERS

Kelly Campbell



Kelly Campbell 00:10

In 2003, when I became a theological librarian, I was looking for a community of learners. I needed to know; I was new to the field. I came from a children's library background. And I was wanting to find colleagues and mentors and guides. And so the Atla community has become that for me in my path as a theological librarian. In the Atla community of learning, I found some experts. One of the first persons who came was Dr. Tim Lincoln, and he helped to do an Atla consultation grant about collection development because I was used to collecting children's books and not theological books. I found resources and professional development, I got involved in the Conference Committee, on the Education Committee, and I found a way that I could give back to the community that had given to me. I also found diversity. I love that about Atla that we come from very diverse backgrounds, different denominations, different customs. But we all come together to support theological education and theological libraries, which was important. I found leadership opportunities in the Atla community. Again, I mentioned I served on committees, I got involved, I did presentations, I ended up serving on the Board. And so Atla has provided leadership and growth opportunities for me both professionally and personally. And then most importantly, I found deep and rich friendships. The Atla community has I found friends that we can share with that we share our personal lives with as well as our professional. And in another way I found my tribe. I did an interview with Daniel Aleshire, who used to be the Executive Director of ATS. And he mentioned that theological schools and libraries tend to be tribes. And so I found my tribe. I found my people in the Atla community and I'm very grateful for that.